



ANNUAL REPORT

MIRPS 2024

Comprehensive
Regional Protection
and Solutions
Framework



CREDITS

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ACRONYMS

ANE	National Employment Agency of Costa Rica
CAJP	Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs
CAM	Committee on Migration Issues
CAMI	Migrant Assistance Centres in Honduras
CCSS	Costa Rican Social Security Fund
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CIE	Proof of Employer Registration
CIM	Inter-American Commission of Women
CIPPDEF	Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons of Honduras
CODER	Commission for Refugee Determination of El Salvador
COMAR	Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance
CONAPINA	National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence of El Salvador
CONAPRED	National Council to Prevent Discrimination of Mexico
CONARE	National Commission for Refugees
CRH	Honduran Red Cross
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CUBOS	Urban Welfare and Opportunity Centres
CURP	Unique Population Registration Number of Mexico
CVRR	Commission on Restricted Visas and Refugees of Costa Rica
DGME	General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners
DIPPDIV	Directorate for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence in Honduras
DRER	Department for the Recognition of Refugee Status of Guatemala
DRTS	Directorate for Social Fabric Reconstruction of El Salvador
DSI	Department of Social Inclusion
EPHPM	Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey
GPIP	MIRPS Support Platform Good Practice Implementation Projects
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HLP	Housing, land and property
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDPS	Internally Displaced Persons
IGM	Guatemalan Migration Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMSS	Mexican Social Security Institute
INA	National Institute of Apprenticeship of Costa Rica
INE	National Institute of Statistics of Honduras
INEA	National Institute for Adult Education of Mexico
INFOP	Honduran Vocational Training Institute
INM	National Migration Institute of Honduras
INTECAP	Technical Institute for Training and Productivity of Guatemala

IRB	Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
ISDEMU	Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women
MAHE	Honduran Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Mechanism
MESECVI	Mechanism to Evaluate and Follow-up on Violence against Women
MINARE	Framework for Protection and Solutions for Response to the Situation of Refugees of Costa Rica
MINEDUC	Ministry of Education of Guatemala
MINEDUCYT	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of El Salvador
MINSAL	Ministry of Health
MINTRAB	Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Guatemala
MIRE	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama
MIRPS	Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework
MTPS	Ministry of Labour and Social Security of El Salvador
MTSS	Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Costa Rica
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NTT	MIRPS National Technical Team
OAS	Organization of American States
ONPAR	National Office for the Attention of Refugees of Panama
PAF	Protection Analytical Framework
PDD	Platform on Disaster Displacement
PEX	Electronic Platform for Work Permits for Foreigners in Guatemala
PIL	Local Integration Programme
PPT	Pro-tempore Presidency
RBA	Register of Abandoned and Dispossessed Property in Honduras
RCM	Regional Conference on Migration
RENAPO	National Population Registry of Mexico
REP	Register of Claims of Honduras
RSD	Refugee status determination
RTT	MIRPS Regional Technical Team
SAPDFM	Subdirectorate for the Attention and Protection of the Fundamental Rights of Migrants
SBS	Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency
SDS	Honduran Ministry of Social Development
SEDH	Secretariat for Human Rights of Honduras
SENAF	Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence and Family of Honduras
SESAL	Honduran Ministry of Health
SEGOB	Ministry of Interior of Mexico
SIGES	Salvadoran Education Management Information System
SNE	National Employment Service of Mexico
SNM	National Migration Service of Panama
SRE	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SRECI	Honduran Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
TSC	Community Health Worker
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UPMRIP	Migration Policy, Registration and Identity of Persons Unit of the Mexican Ministry of Interior



Foreword



This Annual Report reflects the regional strategic vision based on the National Action Plans of the MIRPS States: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama.

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As Pro-tempore Presidency (PPT) of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (Marco Integral Regional para la Protección y Soluciones, MIRPS) in 2024, the Government of Belize led efforts to strengthen regional cooperation for displaced persons in Central America and Mexico. By building on the four pledges presented at the Second Global Refugee Forum and drawing on prior MIRPS Declarations and the Statutory Charter, Belize advanced collective solutions for displacement in the region, continuously pursuing the fulfillment of the four pillars of the MIRPS: i) Improving mechanisms for reception and admission; ii) Responding to humanitarian and protection needs; iii) Supporting host countries and communities; and iv) Enhancing opportunities for durable solutions.

This year's presidency was marked by a renewed commitment to addressing the evolving challenges of displacement. Belize worked closely with MIRPS Member States to identify and implement comprehensive strategies that enhance protection, foster durable solutions, and promote regional dialogue, in three focus areas defined in the Regional Action Plan:

- i) Strengthen the regional response on protection and solutions through the four Regional Technical Teams, working closely with the lead countries to promote peer-to-peer learning and regional cooperation;
- ii) Increase the participation of stakeholders in the MIRPS National Action Plans and Regional Action Plan; and
- iii) Develop the existing talent in the MIRPS regional team and standardize data collection, sharing, and reporting.

Belize also expanded partnerships with key regional mechanisms and initiatives, including the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, the Regional Conference on Migration, the Quito Process, the OAS Committee on Migration Issues and Cartagena+40, to complement joint efforts and identify synergies. Within these spaces, Belize has positioned MIRPS' contributions on governance in the region on displacement issues, in line with the Regional Action Plan that aimed at promoting the complementarity of efforts with other regional mechanisms. Additionally, Belize strengthened collaboration with civil society and the private sector, while launching the MIRPS Academia



Dialogue Mechanism to enhance engagement and knowledge-sharing. Moreover, Belize bolstered the capacities of MIRPS National Technical Teams by providing tools on results-based management and reviewing strategies to better communicate results and progress on MIRPS activities, to promote a more effective and coordinated response. To document these advancements, Belize also produced a mid-year report on MIRPS progress.

This Annual Report reflects the regional strategic vision based on the National Action Plans of the MIRPS States: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama. Also, this report highlights the magnitude and complexity of displacement in the region, while focusing on continuing regional dialogue on the underlying causes of displacement, promoting lessons learned, and knowledge exchange through the MIRPS Regional Technical Teams. It reinforces partnerships with strategic partners, including members of the Support Platform, the United Nations System, the private sector, civil society, and academia. The Annual Report also provides an update on the implementation of projects under the MIRPS Fund, managed by the OAS General Secretariat through the Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) of the Secretariat for

Access to Rights and Equity, as well as the Good Practice Implementation Projects (GPIP).

As the outgoing Pro-tempore Presidency, Belize expresses its gratitude to the MIRPS Member States, the members of the Support Platform, and key allied international organizations for their support and commitment over the year. Belize also extends a warm welcome to the incoming Pro-tempore Presidency of Costa Rica for 2025, committing to support their efforts in the continuation of joint progress. The achievements of 2024 showcase not only the impact of collective efforts, but also the strong dedication of MIRPS countries to protecting displaced persons and working toward lasting solutions to their needs. Belize is honored to have contributed to these advancements and remains committed to fostering a secure and supportive environment for displaced populations across the region through continued collaboration.





Regional Context

The Americas region continues to experience a large scale of displacement and mixed movements, driven by persistent and intensifying root causes such as violence, insecurity, inequality, and lack of socioeconomic opportunities, further exacerbated by the negative impacts of climate change and disasters. By mid-2024, the Americas hosted 20.3 million forcibly displaced people and others in need of protection and assistance. According to UNHCR estimates, women and girls make up 46% of displaced and stateless persons in the region. Where data is available, children constitute 28% of the population in the Americas. Among displaced populations, children, women, persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ individuals, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities often face increased risks of violence and severe harm.

In the first nine months of 2024, over 266,000 people crossed the Darién on their way northwards. Of those, 21% were children, and 38% were women and girls. Arrivals reported in Darién in 2024 mark a 35% decrease compared to the same period last year. Venezuelans continued to be the largest group, followed by Colombians and Ecuadorians. Shifts in displacement patterns across the region have introduced new routes through Central America and the Caribbean.

The persistence of mixed movements through Central America and Mexico over recent years has heightened protection risks for refugees and migrants, while placing immense strain on reception systems. By mid-2024, 1.24 million people had been displaced within the region. Despite these pressures, States and host communities have shown commendable solidarity





by advancing solutions and providing protection, while preventing perilous onward journeys through the strengthening of asylum systems and provision of other alternative legal stay arrangements.

Costa Rica continues to host the largest population of Nicaraguans seeking international protection, with 197,000 asylum-seekers and recognized refugees by mid-2024. Despite the challenges, Costa Rica has made commendable efforts to strengthen its asylum system and reduce the backlog of pending applications through innovative approaches to advance verification and adjudication of pending applications.

Mexico, both a transit and destination country for people affected by displacement and engaged in mixed movements, received over 41,400 asylum applications by June 2024, maintaining a

recognition rate of 80%, which include both the granting of asylum and complementary protection. The spirit of solidarity is further reflected in the implementation of simplified procedures for Haitian asylum-seekers, utilizing the broader Cartagena refugee definition. Since the launch of the local integration programme in 2016, over 45,000 refugees have relocated from southern to central and northern Mexico and gained formal employment in partnership with more than 600 private companies.

Additional efforts to strengthen protection across the region include Guatemala's decentralization pilot programme to facilitate border access to asylum and El Salvador's digital and in-person feedback and complaint mechanisms in more than 20 urban well-being and opportunities centers (known as CUBOs). In Belize, the Amnesty

Programme has provided several hundreds of asylum-seekers with an alternative pathway to permanent residency. In Panama, the Ministry of Women Affairs issued a new Public Policy on Opportunities for Women (2023-2033), which is the first governmental policy on gender equality including measures on human mobility, guaranteeing the protection of refugee women's rights.

In the first half of 2024, over 581,000 individuals were internally displaced in El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico. The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement underscores the urgency of the situation, with the global number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) doubling over the past decade, creating an unsustainable scenario. Women, children, and marginalized groups are among those most severely affected. In Central America and Mexico, organized crime, extortion, and insecurity in certain areas are driving displacement and trapping individuals in prolonged precarious situations. A fundamental step forward is to enhance displacement measurement, including by integrating IDPs in national data and statistical systems. Broader national efforts also aim to strengthen the work of national human rights institutions, prevent gender-based violence, and expand child protection programs, while providing temporary protection alternatives and, where feasible, sustainable local integration solutions.

In Honduras, the Government has been advancing the implementation of the 2022 law on internally displaced persons. In Mexico, six States are developing local legislation aimed at preventing and addressing internal displacement, with technical support from UNHCR.

The last seven years of collaboration have allowed Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama to consolidate a comprehensive regional approach that addresses the drivers of displacement, while also providing concrete solutions for those in all stages of their journey – in countries of origin, transit, destination, and return. This regional approach builds on strengthened collaboration among MIRPS Member States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the OAS, civil society, academia, the private sector and other key stakeholders.

In summary, participating States have shown significant progress and a strengthened commitment to their shared MIRPS objectives. They also continue to encourage further collaboration with members of the MIRPS Support Platform, as reflected in the pledges made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF). This collective effort underscores the central role of protection grounded in the principles of humanity and solidarity.









MIRPS Regional Progress

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

Since the adoption of the San Pedro Sula Declaration in 2017, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Central American countries and Mexico has steadily increased. In response, the Government of Belize has developed and implemented a Regional Action Plan, building on the commitments of the Panama City Declaration and the four regional multi-stakeholder MIRPS pledges¹ presented at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. This approach has effectively translated political commitments from MIRPS States into tangible actions aimed at protecting and providing solutions for displaced persons.

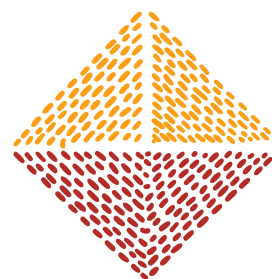
Following the approval of the 2024 Regional Action Plan by all MIRPS States, Regional Technical Teams formulated detailed workplans outlining specific activities and outputs to drive progress on the implementation of these pledges. These regional efforts are applied at the national level, leading to advancements in the implementation of MIRPS National Action Plans.

During its tenure as the MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency (PPT), the Government of Belize identified several key learnings to guide future efforts.

MIRPS WORKPLANS ARE RESULTS-ORIENTED, with the transformation of pledges into actionable objectives and deliverables that have a meaningful impact on the lives of displaced persons. Therefore, MIRPS States should continue strengthening their capacities for monitoring and evaluating these outcomes. To improve transparency and communication, the Government of Belize introduced mid-year MIRPS reports and thematic newsletters, while also implementing a regional plan focused on communications, results-based management, and project development. This included a revision of MIRPS indicators and the results framework to enhance the planning and monitoring of regional responses.

THE MIRPS IS COMMITTED TO COORDINATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL MECHANISMS. In 2024, the PPT actively advocated for greater collaboration, resulting in concrete joint initiatives in key areas: i) addressing the challenges of unprecedented mixed movements across Central American and Mexican borders; ii) strengthening national reception and admission systems by enhancing case management and processing modalities to ensure fairness, efficiency,

1 For further information on the pledges MIRPS countries presented at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, please refer to the factsheet on regional pledges (<https://mirps-platform.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/MIRPS-pledges-at-the-GRF-1.pdf>) and the GRF Pledge Database (<https://globalcompactrefugees.org/pledges-contributions>)



adaptability, and integrity of asylum systems; iii) partnering with multiple stakeholders to identify and address the root causes of displacement and bolster local protection mechanisms; and iv) advancing data collection efforts by incorporating identification questions and solutions indicators in national censuses and household surveys to enable disaggregated reporting on forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

THE MIRPS PROMOTES A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH. Under Belize's leadership, dialogue mechanisms with civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector were strengthened. This led to the establishment of the MIRPS Academia Dialogue Mechanism and the expansion of the Civil Society Dialogue

Mechanism to include more members, such as refugee-led organizations. Furthermore, with support from the MIRPS Support Platform and contributions from Spain and the United States, MIRPS States have been able to implement projects through the MIRPS Fund at the OAS and the Support Platform's Good Practice Implementation Projects. These initiatives aim to expand access to humanitarian assistance, enhance integration and labor inclusion mechanisms, and promote livelihoods and self-reliance for displaced populations. The outcomes and lessons learned from these projects can be shared with other regional mechanisms and the monitoring and implementation frameworks of the Global Compact on Refugees.



Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission and Case Processing

The Government of Mexico has continued leading the Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission and Case Processing. The workplan developed by MIRPS States was guided by the regional pledge presented at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023 and confirmed in the Panama City Declaration in January 2024.

Driven by the spirit of coordination with other regional mechanisms, MIRPS, in collaboration with the Quito Process, held the “Technical Meeting with the National Commissions for Refugees (CONAREs) and their equivalents in the Americas²,” in Panama City on 15 and 16 October 2024. Over two days, the countries participated in discussions on improving the processes for reviewing refugee status claims, explored tools for reducing case backlogs, and shared their experiences with digitization processes. This event marks a milestone that is expected to be replicated in the future, for the greater benefit of the countries that form the MIRPS and the Quito Process.

In addition, during 2024, the Regional Technical Team finalised the “Theory of Change and Results Framework on Asylum/Refugee Systems,” as well as the revision of indicators. Based on this regional analysis, it was agreed to continue efforts so that: i) asylum/refugee processes are fair, efficient and of high quality; and ii) there is effective identification, prioritization and channelling for comprehensive care to meet the needs of the target population. To achieve these results, the countries recognize

the need for greater exchange of objective country-of-origin information, the reinforcement of differentiated analysis strategies, the strengthening of case management through digitalization, the establishment of referral and counter-referral mechanisms, and the strengthening of information and documentation mechanisms.

One of the main goals of the Regional Technical Team’s virtual sessions was to develop recommendations for accessible procedures for determining the refugee status of children and adolescents and to identify good practices in the region. The situation of displaced children is a matter of concern for MIRPS States, taking into account that the number of children and adolescents on the move has been steadily increasing over the last ten years.

Following up on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Organization of American States (OAS) Declaration for the Protection and Integration of Migrant and Refugee Children in the Americas, MIRPS countries are working on incorporating the following elements into their refugee status recognition processes: i) accessibility and safety; ii) favourable physical environments; iii) qualified staff with the required skills and appropriate approaches; iv) child-friendly information; v) relevant participation; vi) approaches and methods adapted to the age, maturity, context and situation of the children and adolescents; and vii) appropriate support

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measures and protections. This process has received technical support from UNHCR, OAS and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

In addition, MIRPS countries, with the support of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada, have held sessions on country-of-origin information research products and

methodology. Discussions have included approaches and best practices on how to assess the relevance and reliability of sources, approaches when contradictory information is found between sources, the development of national documentation dossiers, and the use of oral sources.

Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement

Under the leadership of Honduras, the MIRPS Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement continues to position itself as a reference space for guidance and coordination of responses to internal displacement in member countries. This regional body is dedicated to strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of the Governments of El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico by supporting the implementation of legal frameworks and public policies, as well as facilitating the exchange of knowledge and effective practices to address the challenges of internal displacement.

At the inter-American level, on 11 September 2024, the member countries of the Regional Technical Team participated in a discussion with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons at the Organization of American States, organised by the Department of Social Inclusion, where experiences, challenges and the lessons learned on internal displacement in the region were reviewed.³ During this event, the Team's work was highlighted as a form of exemplary practice in the Americas that should be replicated in other regions.

In 2024, as part of the implementation of the established workplan, the Team held a working session focused on the criteria for registering internally displaced persons, where the “Guía para el registro de personas en situación de desplazamiento forzado interno en México” (“Guide for the registration of persons in situations of forced internal displacement in Mexico), developed by the Unidad de Política Migratoria,

Registro e Identidad de Personas (Unit for Migration Policy, Registration, and Identity of Persons, UPMRIP, by its Spanish acronym) of the Ministry of the Interior of the Government of Mexico and the UNHCR, was shared. This document, which compiles with registration standards, was made available to the other member countries of the Regional Technical Team.

The methodology for protection analysis in contexts of internal displacement was also reviewed through the Protection Analytical Framework (PAF), a global tool developed to facilitate harmonised and systematised analysis under methodological standards. Supported by UNHCR, this analysis has allowed MIRPS countries to present their progress and, in this context, to identify common themes for the exchange of experiences, such as the creation of municipal units and departmental roundtables and the importance of their coordination with national authorities to strengthen the response to internal displacement. In particular, in the case of Honduras, progress was highlighted in processes that facilitate the participation of internally displaced persons in the development of the regulations for the law on displacement in Honduras, where women, men, children, adolescents, youth, indigenous peoples, Afro-Hondurans, LGBTIQ+ populations, civil society organizations, and community leaders participated. Similarly, in this context, common issues were identified for the exchange of experiences, such as the creation of municipal units, departmental

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tables, and participation mechanisms for displaced persons; the implementation of Early Warning Systems to prevent internal displacement and mitigate the risks of collective displacement; and the importance of coordination with national authorities and state institutions to strengthen the national response capacity to internal displacement.

In addition, a working session on “Prevention and Early Warnings” was held, in which the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) presented its work in the field of displacement prevention. The Massive Data Institute at Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy presented a research project focused on anticipating situations

of displacement. As a good practice, the Proyecto “Dzahui” (“Dzahui” Project) was presented, an early warning system in Mexico that warns of natural disasters such as heavy rain and floods through a virtual application. Members of the Regional Technical Team also received training on sustainable solutions to internal displacement, with the participation of experts from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNHCR and the UN Secretary-General’s Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement.

Similarly, the virtual consultation on “Disasters and Climate Change as Root Causes of Internal Displacement” was held with the support of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). During

this session, the information gathered at the first consultation in 2022 was updated and the specific impacts faced by internally displaced persons were addressed.

Based on the work carried out in 2023 and 2024, the “*ABC sobre Desplazamiento Interno*” (“ABCs on Internal Displacement”) document has been developed and made available to the member countries of the Regional Technical Team as a practical and updateable resource that compiles

and coordinates various tools built from the Team’s sessions, providing a reference that reflects progress and evolution in policies, methodologies and recommended practices.

Furthermore, looking ahead to 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has joined the Regional Technical Team as an Expert Advisor to support actions aimed at preventing and responding to internal displacement due to violence.

Regional Technical Team on Jobs and Livelihoods

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Following up on their national pledges, which are aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees, supporting the self-reliance of displaced persons remains a priority for MIRPS countries. Central to this goal is the imperative commitment of actors to promote sustainable economic opportunities for both refugees and host communities.

Through the Regional Technical Team on Jobs and Livelihoods, continuing to be led by Costa Rica, efforts in 2024 were focused on facilitating access to decent work and entrepreneurship by virtue of the employability mechanisms of the involved government institutions, national legislation, and relevant policies. Likewise, progress was made in implementing the strategy for the recognition of knowledge, skills and expertise, together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), as a member of the advisory panel of this Technical Team.

One of the main outcomes for the Regional Technical Team was the creation of the Theory of Change and the Results Framework on the labour integration of displaced persons. The MIRPS

countries confirmed their work priorities, with the aim of ensuring that: i) policies facilitate labour integration; ii) displaced persons have access to decent work, with social security and financial services; iii) the skills, including prior knowledge, of displaced persons are recognised.

As a follow-up to these efforts, some vocational training institutes from MIRPS countries participated in the 2024 Regional Tripartite Meeting “*Talento en movimiento: Hacia el reconocimiento mutuo de certificación de competencias laborales para una migración segura, ordenada y regular en América Latina y el Caribe*” (“Talent on the move: Towards mutual recognition of labour skills certification for safe, orderly and regular migration in Latin America and the Caribbean”), organised by the ILO in Lima, Peru, with the aim of supporting the operationalisation of practices that facilitate mutual recognition of the labour skills certification process for the sustainable socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants. As part of the event, representatives from Costa Rica presented the progress made by the MIRPS, and

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the OAS Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) reaffirmed the importance of coordinating with other regional mechanisms. The MIRPS Technical Team will follow up on the agreements and roadmaps resulting from these discussions and will continue to foster learning and support from other regional mechanisms and members of the MIRPS Support Platform.

During the Team's virtual sessions, the ILO study on "*Mapeo y análisis de acuerdos bilaterales para regular la migración laboral regional y extrarregional en las Américas*" ("Mapping and analysis of bilateral agreements to regulate regional and extra-regional labour migration in the Americas") was also presented. Based on this study, MIRPS countries mapped bilateral

agreements among MIRPS countries, which will help guide future decisions on countries and expertise that can be considered in future pilot projects.

MIRPS countries are implementing projects to facilitate labour integration and self-reliance at the national level, with the support of the OAS MIRPS Fund and the Good Practice Implementation Projects of the Support Platform. To support these processes, the Regional Technical Team hopes to work on market-based intervention tools, which will allow MIRPS countries to carry out their projects more effectively and ensure the sustainability of such initiatives.

Regional Technical Team on Local Governance

In 2024, Guatemala City and San Benito, Petén, Guatemala, led the Regional Technical Team on Local Governance. This is the first time within the MIRPS that two local governments have co-led the team, promoting the strengthening of local capacities through the dissemination of good practices. In addition, new local governments from Belize, Guatemala and Honduras have also joined the team, significantly broadening its scope.⁴

At the invitation of the Government of Guatemala, and thanks to the support of the United States as outgoing Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, member local governments participated in the // *National Cities of Solidarity Conference* held in Guatemala City on 25 September. At this event, the progress and inclusive practices implemented by cities in Guatemala were presented, which have supported the coexistence and integration of refugees in host communities. The Regional Technical Team's achievements were highlighted as a regional good practice, reinforcing the MIRPS' commitment to supporting displaced and refugee populations in Central America and Mexico.

On the afternoon of 25 September, and on 26 September, as part of the *Complementary Meeting of the Regional Technical Team on Local Governance*, the representatives of MIRPS countries and members of the MIRPS Support Platform, including the City of Montevideo, Uruguay, engaged in a regional dialogue. In

addition, participants explored the programmes and services offered by the Municipality of Guatemala. Recommendations were made to incorporate a local approach in the MIRPS National Action Plans, aimed at improving the integration of displaced persons.

Moreover, in implementing the Team's workplan for 2024, various areas of work were addressed to strengthen local capacities to assist displaced persons and support their integration and protection. Members received training on preventing and responding to gender-based violence, facilitated by experts from UN Women, the Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI, by its Spanish acronym) of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM, by its Spanish acronym) of the OAS, and UNHCR. In addition, participating local governments shared their good practices in this area. Based on these efforts, a document was prepared on practical tools for gender-based violence prevention and response programmes at the local level.

The UNHCR Sport Strategy was presented, highlighting sport as a protection tool for displaced persons. In turn, the participants presented their recreational, sporting and cultural initiatives and activities, underlining their importance for community integration. Similarly, with the support of UNHCR, progress was made in developing local

4 In 2024, the Members of the Regional Technical Team (ETR, by its Spanish acronym) are: Belize (Belmopan, Benque Viejo del Carmen); Guatemala (Guatemala City, San Benito, Esquipulas, Villanueva, Huehuetenango, Puerto Barrios, Livingston, Quetzaltenango); Honduras (Choloma, El Progreso, San Pedro Sula); Panama (San Miguelito, Chepo); and Mexico (Tapachula, Palenque).

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service routes to improve the support provided to displaced persons.

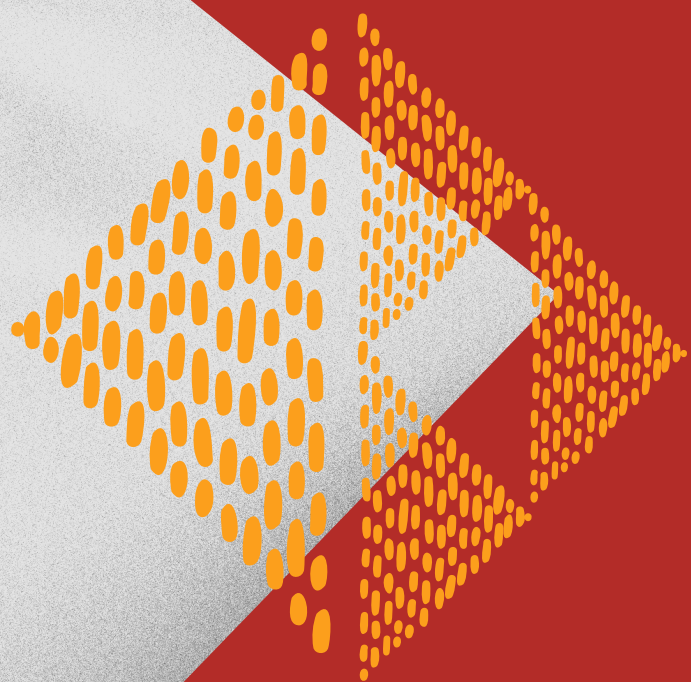
The regional dialogue in Guatemala, with the Regional Technical Team's first in-person meeting, together with the working sessions, has facilitated the creation of key resources that will strengthen

the protection and integration of displaced persons at the local level. In this regard, the MIRPS Regional Technical Team on Local Governance has made significant progress in 2024, establishing itself as a collaborative space that strengthens local responses for displaced persons and their host communities.



Strategic Positioning of MIRPS in the OAS

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The progress made by the MIRPS and its Member States has significantly raised its profile and standing in key political forums within the Organization of American States (OAS). By addressing forced displacement through regional cooperation and responsibility sharing, the MIRPS initiative has showcased a proactive approach to managing protection challenges in Central America and Mexico. This acknowledgement reflects the ongoing commitment of MIRPS States to continue working through collaborative efforts and innovative solutions. In addition, MIRPS States have benefitted from technical guidance and resources provided by specialized OAS bodies, which has further strengthened their capacity to respond to the evolving needs of displaced populations. This collaboration not only highlights the importance of international solidarity but also underscores the integral role that the OAS plays in supporting regional mechanisms for migration governance and protection.

First, in line with its annual practices, the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) received a comprehensive update on the advancements, lessons learned, and best practices from the MIRPS States. This update underscored the situation of displacement and the trends of mixed movements affecting the region. Notable contributions were made by Belize as the 2024 MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency, as well as by the Panama Pro-tempore Presidency 2023, other MIRPS Member States, and the OAS-UNHCR MIRPS Technical Secretariat.

On behalf of the MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency, the MIRPS Technical Secretariat participated in the annual thematic session of the OAS Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) that focused on strengthening regional cooperation to enhance migration governance and international protection across the Americas. The MIRPS was highlighted as a regional cooperation process with tangible actions aimed at providing protection and durable solutions for displaced persons. The meeting

By addressing forced displacement through regional cooperation and responsibility sharing, the MIRPS initiative has showcased a proactive approach to managing protection challenges in Central America and Mexico.

also served to forge collaborative efforts that complement one another and drive forward collective goals in common areas of collaboration with other regional processes, including the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), the South American Conference on Migration, Cartagena +40, and the Quito Process.

The OAS General Assembly reaffirmed its recognition of the MIRPS in its most recent 2024 resolution. OAS Member States acknowledged the ongoing efforts of MIRPS States to address the needs of asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees with protection needs, and other displaced persons, supported by the joint Technical Secretariat. Of note, this resolution revisits the situation of IDPs in the region and acknowledges the advances of the MIRPS Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement.¹

Regarding capacity building, the Department of Social Inclusion of the OAS in collaboration

with UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the University of Notre Dame organized the fifth edition of the Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection. This course was designed to bolster the skills and knowledge of OAS Permanent Missions officials including those of MIRPS States, as well as MIRPS National Technical Teams and Support Platform Members. During this course, Belize, as the Pro-tempore Presidency, participated in a panel alongside representatives from other regional processes to showcase MIRPS achievements and share best practices for addressing the challenges of displacement. The Inter-American Course served as the ideal setting for the launch of the MIRPS Academia Dialogue Mechanism, creating a valuable space for knowledge exchange and collaboration among academic institutions, policymakers, and Member States.²

1 Available at: https://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_24/AG09142S03.docx

2 For further information, refer to the section, "Alliances with Strategic Partners: Academia"

DSI/OAS led strategic events to raise awareness on key issues within MIRPS and its populations of interest, including internally displaced and stateless persons. These events were opportunities to showcase the efforts and best practices of the MIRPS. One significant event was “A Chat with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons: Experiences, Challenges, and Lessons Learned on Internal Displacement in the Region,” which was organized in collaboration with UNHCR on September 10, 2024. During the event, the Rapporteur shared insights on the main situations of internal displacement in the region and the challenges faced by Member States, along with effective practices and lessons learned. The MIRPS Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement was highlighted as a good practice in the Americas.³ Another important activity was the “Regional Event on Prevention and Eradication of Statelessness in the Americas,” which took place on October 11, 2024, organized in partnership with UNHCR and the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University. During this discussion, representatives from governments, the OAS Missions, civil society, academia, and international organizations identified key challenges and opportunities to improve policies and strategies aimed at preventing and reducing statelessness in the region. The event also facilitated the exchange of best practices and lessons learned among Member States and key actors to enhance the protection of the rights of stateless persons in the Americas, including within Central America and Mexico.

Furthermore, technical bodies of the OAS provided their expertise to the MIRPS Regional Technical Teams and other MIRPS spaces. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) contributed to the work of the Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission, and Case Processing.⁴ The Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) also participated providing technical guidance in the Regional Technical Team on Local Governance.⁵ Additionally, during the MIRPS Workshop, “How do we measure and communicate the progress of MIRPS?” the DSI provided practical tools for strategically communicating the challenges and advancements of the MIRPS States.

The OAS General Secretariat has remained committed to supporting the Permanent Missions of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama in their initiatives to address displacement. This support has been particularly crucial during the negotiation process of the Belize City Declaration 2024, which was adopted during the Annual Meeting.

The DSI/OAS remains at the disposal of its Member States, providing ongoing support, technical guidance, and essential resources necessary to enhance their responses to the needs of displaced persons. This commitment extends to facilitating knowledge sharing and best practices among Member States. By fostering collaboration and dialogue, the OAS not only strengthens the capacity of Member States to implement effective policies but also promotes a unified approach to migration governance and protection across the region.

3 For further information, refer to the section, “Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement.”

4 For further information, refer to the section, “Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission, and Case Processing.”

5 For further information, refer to the section, “Regional Technical Team on Local Governance.”



MIRPS FUND IN ACTION

The MIRPS Fund is one of the key mechanisms for mobilizing resources and coordinating the support required by MIRPS States, complementing existing mechanisms to address the displacement crisis in the region.

Throughout 2024, the Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) of the OAS, responsible for the administration, financial management, and accountability of the Fund, has worked closely with the implementing entities of each State, providing support and technical assistance for the implementation of the initiatives in the MIRPS Fund's First Project Portfolio. Progress on implementation as of end-2024 includes:

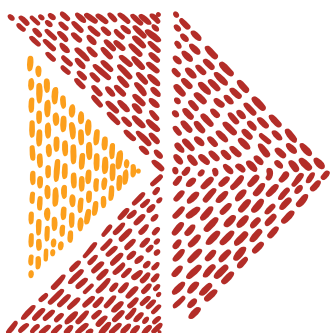
BELIZE: The implementation of the "Refugees Department's Border Presence Project" led by the Refugees Department of the Ministry of Immigration, is about to begin.

COSTA RICA: The Refugee Unit of the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners is executing the project entitled "Strengthening the Identification and Referral of Asylum-Seekers and/or Persons in Vulnerable Situations, through the Modernization of the Refugee Unit of Costa Rica" which is 75% complete in terms of project implementation.

EL SALVADOR: The National Council for Early Childhood, Children, and Adolescents (CONAPINA by its acronym in Spanish) is implementing the project entitled "Enhancing the Livelihoods of Returnee Children and Adolescents in need of Protection and their Families," which is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

GUATEMALA: The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare is executing the project entitled "Facilitating the Labor Inclusion of Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in Guatemala."

HONDURAS: The Secretariat of Human Rights is implementing the project entitled "Strengthening the Governmental Response to Assist Internally Displaced Persons



due to Violence” which is expected to be completed by the end of January 2025.

MEXICO: The Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance will execute the project entitled “Institutional Strengthening of Operational Capacity to Recognize the Identity of Refugee Status Applicants, with Particular Emphasis on Children and Adolescents in Mexico.”

PANAMA: The Ministry of Government is executing the project entitled “Strengthening the Care, Integration and Protection of Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Host Communities in the Darien Province, in line with the MIRPS National Action, with a Focus on Children, Adolescents and Women,” which is 80% complete in terms of project implementation.

These projects are aligned with the MIRPS pillars and commitments, enabling States to advance the implementation of their national plans. They also incorporate cross-cutting approaches focused on rights, inclusion, gender, age, and the needs of vulnerable populations.

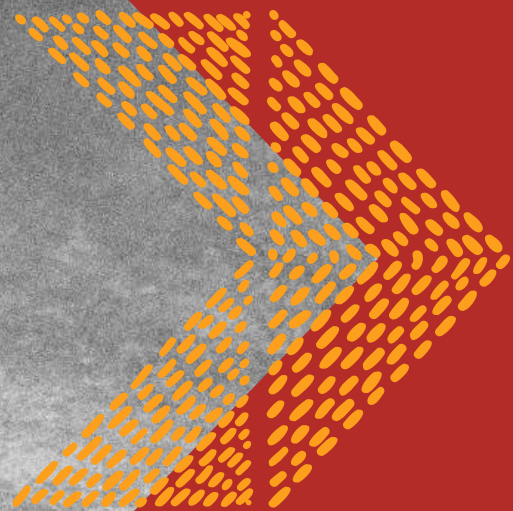
Over 100,000 refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, and displaced persons in Central America and Mexico are expected to benefit from these projects’ implementation.

The MIRPS Fund remains open to receiving new contributions and continuing the implementation of initiatives and projects on the ground in MIRPS States.





Alliances with Strategic Partners



CIVIL SOCIETY

DIALOGUE MECHANISM: ACTIONS IN 2024

Refugio LGBT+ Casa Frida, in its capacity as the Pro-tempore Presidency of the MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism, formulated an annual work plan with the aim of strengthening the sense of community and dialogue among member organizations, as well as positioning the Mechanism with different actors as a relevant support structure for the implementation of MIRPS activities.

From January to November, *Refugio LGBT+ Casa Frida*, as the lead of the mechanism, together with the other organizations that form the general assembly of the Mechanism, held eleven regular meetings that facilitated the exchange of experiences and best practices for supporting persons with international protection needs and other displaced persons in the region. These meetings also helped outline strategies to strengthen collaboration between organizations and with the MIRPS member countries.

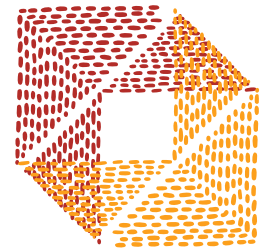
In July, the Mechanism held the first MIRPS CSO FORUM 2024, which aimed primarily at sharing best practices that involve coordination between governments and civil society for the protection and solutions for displaced populations at the regional level, under the framework of the four working groups of the Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism: Asylum Processes, Internal

Displacement, Training and Livelihoods, and Local Governance.

They key product of this Forum was the creation of the “Manual of Good Practices for Coordination Between Civil Society and MIRPS Governments in the Framework of the MIRPS CSO Forum 2024.” This manual seeks to systematize the best practices for supporting displaced populations in need of protection in the region. It sets a precedent for the work between governments and civil society with the aim of strengthening relationships between them.

Additionally, a mapping of services for persons in need of international protection and other displaced populations was created. This mapping is being carried out with the member organizations of the MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism to identify the services provided in the region. It is designed to be a useful resource for displaced populations by geolocating services related to protection, livelihoods, and training. This mapping can also serve as a useful resource to governments, MIRPS National Technical Teams, and the MIRPS Support Platform to increase awareness of the work carried out by the organizations on protection and solutions in alignment with MIRPS, in order to strengthen coordination and collaboration.

In line with efforts to increase collaboration, in a meeting between the Regional Conference



on Migration and the MIRPS, the MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism shared best practices on protection that demonstrate collaboration between civil society and the MIRPS governments.

Towards the end of the year, the Mechanism is holding internal conversations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of its work, recognizing the challenging and complex landscape due to the increase in mixed movements and the growing need to identify individuals with international protection needs, persons in situations of forced displacement, and those with specific protection needs such as children, adolescents, LGBTIQ+ individuals, survivors of gender-based violence, as well as human trafficking and smuggling.



PRIVATE SECTOR

In 2024, MIRPS countries continued to build strategic alliances with the private sector as part of a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges of displacement across Central America and Mexico. Recognizing the private sector's role in fostering economic resilience, social cohesion, and integration, MIRPS Member States worked to expand initiatives that leverage business partnerships to enhance both the protection and integration of displaced populations and the stability of host communities. These collaborations reflect a deepened commitment to promoting economic self-sufficiency, access to essential services, and improved living conditions for displaced persons, while also contributing to regional economic growth and development.

The MIRPS Statutory Charter established a Private Sector Dialogue Mechanism, aimed at facilitating communication and collaboration with MIRPS States to identify avenues for cooperation and joint actions to improve economic opportunities, livelihoods, and self-sufficiency for refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, internally displaced persons, and returnees with protection needs throughout the region.

Based on this framework, the Technical Secretariat has developed a proposed structure for this mechanism for consideration by private sector stakeholders to put into action this mandate of the Statutory Charter. Therefore, at the OAS Office in Belize City, the MIRPS Technical Secretariat gave

an initial presentation of this potential structure with the Chamber of Commerce of Belize, where the Chamber shared its perspective on the proposed Private Sector Dialogue Mechanism, contributing valuable insights on potential collaboration opportunities.

Additionally, a wider virtual consultation took place regarding the proposed MIRPS Private Sector Dialogue Mechanism. This consultation highlighted the pivotal role of the private sector as a key actor, complementing government and NGO efforts by leveraging resources, expertise, and networks that can create meaningful and sustainable change for displaced populations. It also emphasized the “whole of society approach” set forth in the Global Compact on Refugees, promoting a more holistic approach to addressing forced displacement, combining economic, social, and political elements to create long-lasting, sustainable change for refugees and their host communities alike. The key areas for collaboration identified were:

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION:

Exploring how businesses can help create job opportunities that are accessible to displaced populations, helping them gain financial independence and stability, while contributing to the local economy and increasing diversity in the workforce.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

(CSR): Identifying successful practices that



incorporate the inclusion and protection of refugees and other displaced persons within CSR strategies, efforts that can create positive public relations while directly impacting lives.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SUPPORT: Promoting entrepreneurship among displaced populations through support mechanisms including business incubators, mentorship programs, and funding opportunities. By encouraging entrepreneurship, businesses enable displaced persons to contribute economically and foster innovation within their communities.

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS: The private sector can use its influence to promote policies that protect displaced persons and change the narrative, highlighting their economic and cultural contributions. Businesses can also advocate for inclusive policies that help integrate refugees and other displaced persons into the workforce and society.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS:

Strengthening partnerships between

governments and private companies to implement joint initiatives to enhance the scale and reach of solutions, that expand access to education, healthcare, training, and housing for displaced populations.

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Drawing on feedback received from private sector representatives, the Technical Secretariat will proceed with preparations to formally launch the Private Sector Dialogue Mechanism in 2025, under the leadership of Costa Rica as the next MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency, aligning it with other regional efforts in this area.

Furthermore, the private sector actively participated in the MIRPS Annual Meeting, demonstrating a growing commitment to regional solutions for displacement. This partnership framework sets the foundation for impactful and sustainable collaboration, where the private sector's expertise and resources contribute meaningfully to the MIRPS objectives, enhancing the social and economic resilience of displaced communities across the region.

ACADEMIA

Displacement in the region is intertwined with highly complex challenges that require a shared responsibility approach between governmental and non-governmental actors. In this context, universities and academic institutions play an essential role in promoting durable solutions and integrated responses. The knowledge generated by these institutions not only enriches public policies but also fosters a more profound understanding of the causes, dynamics, and effects of displacement in Central America and Mexico.

To harness the contributions from academia in this field, the MIRPS States, under the leadership of Belize as 2024 Pro-tempore Presidency, and with the support of the Technical Secretariat, formalized the creation of the MIRPS Academia Dialogue Mechanism, as previously endorsed by MIRPS States in the Statutory Charter. This mechanism was officially launched on 13 September during the Fifth Edition of the Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection.

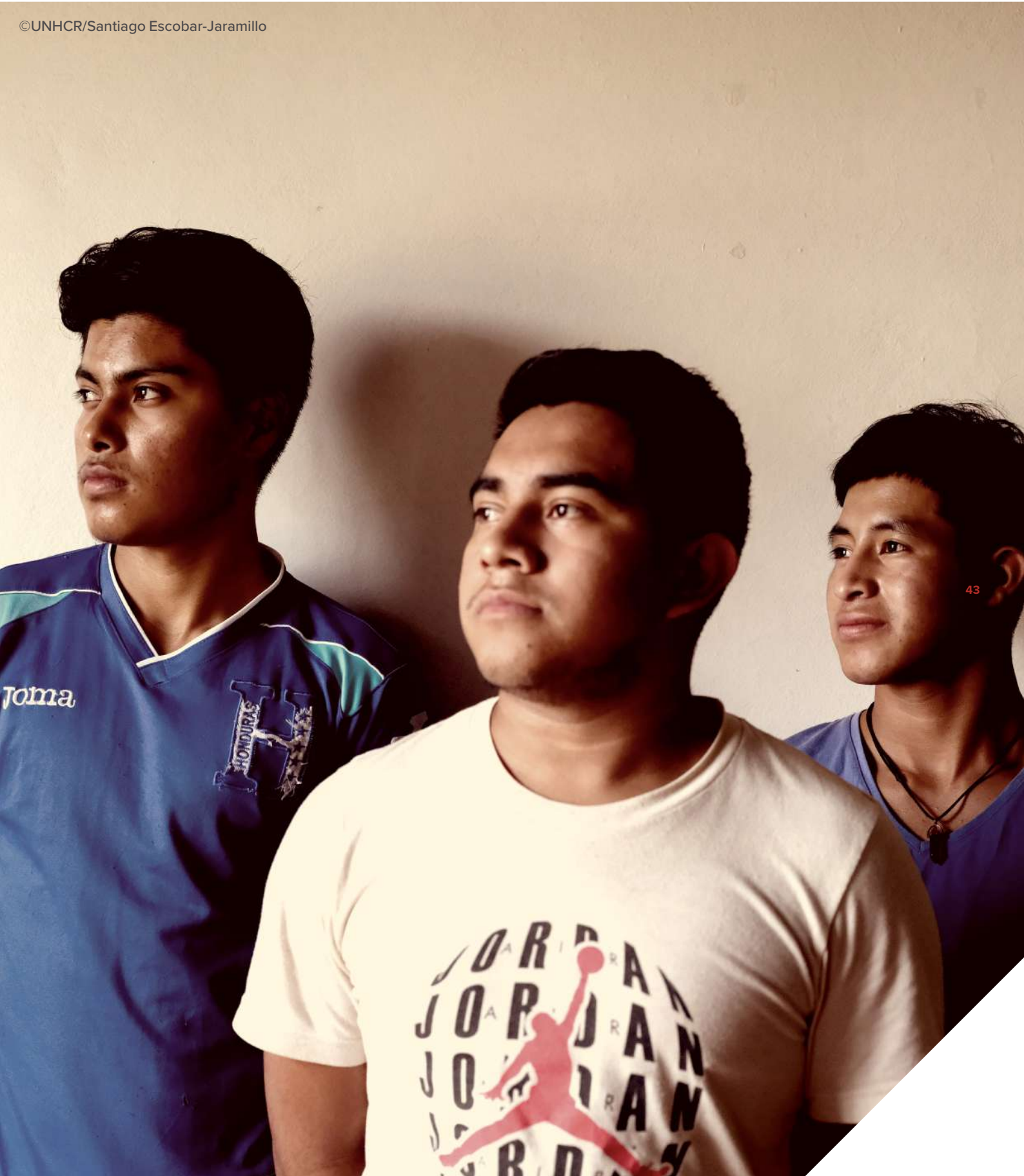
This initiative aims to deepen collaboration between academia and MIRPS States, allowing research and analysis to better inform policies and practices. The objectives of the MIRPS Academia Dialogue Mechanism include fostering academic dialogue and inter-institutional collaboration; promoting studies and research on displacement; organizing conferences, seminars, and workshops on displacement-related challenges; and raising awareness within the academic community on these issues.

Several preparatory meetings were held to consult academic institutions on the development of this mechanism. On 16 July in Belmopan, Belize, Galen University and the University of Belize met with the MIRPS Technical Secretariat to share their research on displacement and discuss the relevance and objectives of the proposed Mechanism. Later, on 31 July, representatives from ten academic institutions across MIRPS Member States gathered to share insights on displacement research and provide feedback on the anticipated benefits of the Academia Dialogue Mechanism. Drawing from these consultations, the Technical Secretariat prepared a technical note summarizing academic contributions to responses on forced displacement in the region.

Furthermore, academic institutions have actively participated in various MIRPS activities, including the virtual Working Session on “Prevention and Early Warning Systems,” held on 25 July the “Consultation on Underlying Causes of Internal Displacement: Disasters and Climate Change” held on 7 July by the Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement, and the MIRPS Annual Meeting.

The official launch of the Academia Dialogue Mechanism represents a significant milestone in academic collaboration within the MIRPS. In 2025, further progress is expected in implementing and strengthening this initiative, aligning its efforts with the MIRPS Regional Technical Teams, and advancing commitments made by MIRPS Member States.

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MIRPS in Action: National Progress

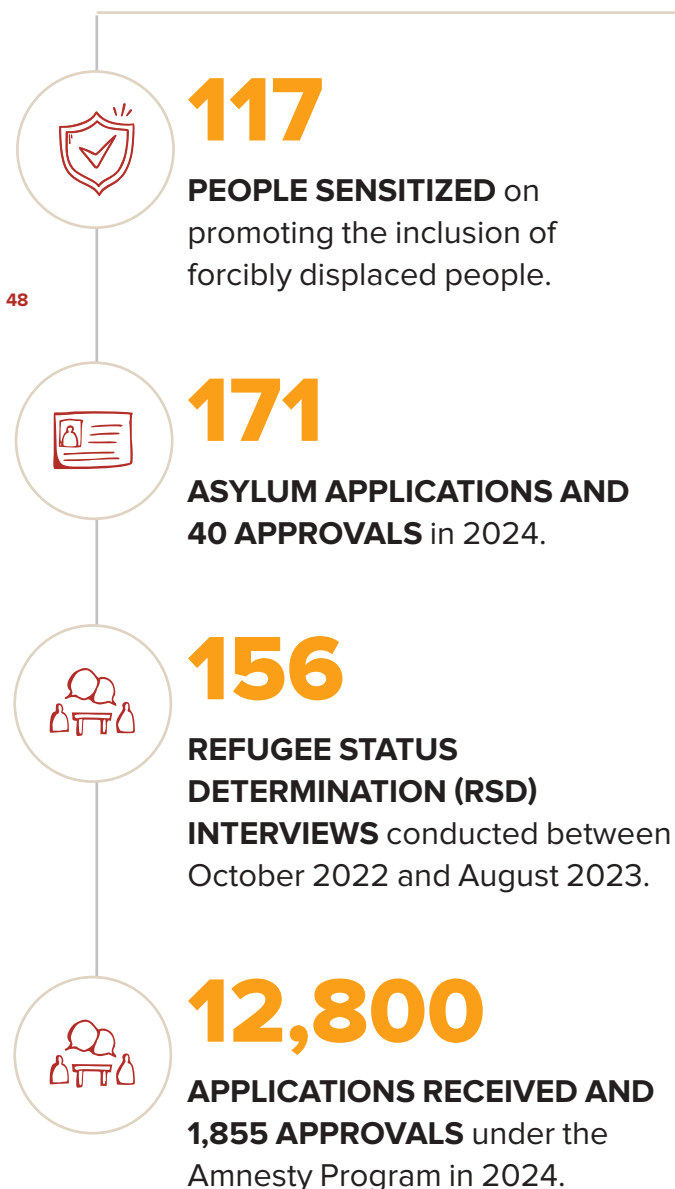




Belize

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Indicators



In 2024, Belize made noteworthy contributions as the MIRPS Pro-Tempore Presidency. Assuming this leadership role at the beginning of the year, Belize has actively sought to enhance synergies between the MIRPS and other significant mechanisms, including Cartagena +40, the Quito Process, and the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM). Through participation in various meetings and by delivering interventions on behalf of the nation, Belize has demonstrated its commitment to fostering collaborative approaches in addressing issues related to forced displacement within the region.

A key initiative undertaken by Belize has been the reactivation of its MIRPS National Technical Team (NTT). This reactivation has empowered the NTT to engage in a range of activities, including participation in Regional Technical Team Sessions, where they have contributed valuable interventions and shared best practices that could benefit other countries facing similar challenges. Moreover, the National Technical Team has developed the Belize MIRPS National Action Plan for 2024-2026, which serves as a strategic framework to guide the nation's efforts in

In 2024, Belize made notable contributions as MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency.

Since assuming this leadership role, Belize has worked to enhance synergies between MIRPS and other regional mechanisms.

addressing displacement issues comprehensively. The team is also in the initial phases of a good practice implementation project, designed to assist in Labor Integration.

Between October 2022 and August 2023, Belize conducted 156 Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews, reflecting the nation's ongoing commitment to addressing the needs of displaced individuals and ensuring the protection of their rights. Additionally, acknowledging the importance of local engagement, the team conducted several missions aimed at meeting with local governments. These interactions were focused on strengthening relationships and enhancing the social integration

of forcibly displaced persons, ensuring that the specific needs of these communities are effectively addressed at both local and national levels.

Significantly, Belize is scheduled to host the VII MIRPS Annual Meeting in December, an event that underscores its leadership role while convening stakeholders to assess progress, challenges, and future initiatives in the region.

Overall, these initiatives highlight Belize's proactive approach and dedication to leading the MIRPS framework, while ensuring that the challenges faced by forcibly displaced persons remain a priority on both national and regional agendas.



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Protection



In the past year, the Refugees Department, with the assistance of the MIRPS NTT, has made significant strides in enhancing the protection of asylum-seekers. An information package detailing the services and rights available to individuals once they are recognized as refugees was developed. This resource is crucial for empowering refugees to navigate their new environment. The package includes vital information on various types

of services, such as Social Security Benefits, healthcare access, educational opportunities, and pathways to employment.

Moreover, the package contains contact information for key civil society organizations, such as UNHCR, Human Rights Commission of Belize, Help for Progress, and Humana People to People, which play a crucial role in supporting refugees.

Additionally, the Refugees Department opened a Refugee Information Center in Benque Viejo, strategically located to assist asylum-seekers entering Belize through the Western Border. This centre serves as a vital support hub for newcomers seeking guidance and information.

Throughout the year, **the Refugees Department conducted a remarkable number of interviews,**

processing approximately 171 applications, resulting in 40 approvals. These efforts reflect the Department's commitment to facilitating the integration of asylum-seekers into Belizean society. By providing essential information and resources, the Department aims to ensure that refugees can access their rights and services effectively, fostering a safer and more supportive community for all.

Education



The Ministry of Education has launched several transformative programs this year to benefit both Belizeans and forcibly displaced persons. One of the key initiatives is the Education Upliftment Program, which provides critical support to schools nationwide, assisting students with tuition,

uniforms, and meals. **Notably, Bella Vista High School is actively participating in this program, currently benefiting 5 refugees.** This inclusive approach enables displaced individuals to access quality education, fostering their personal development and integration.

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Health

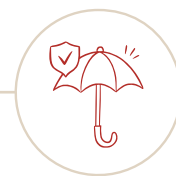


The Ministry of Health has continued its dedication to providing accessible healthcare by offering low-cost services at both primary and secondary healthcare levels. This includes free consultations and various essential services, aiming to ensure that all individuals, including forcibly displaced persons, receive necessary medical attention.

Additionally, the launch of the Community Health Worker's (CHW) Manual and Job Aid tool marks a significant advancement in community health. This resource equips community healthcare workers with the technical and communication

skills needed to better serve individuals in their neighbourhoods. By enhancing their capacity, CHWs can potentially assist forcibly displaced persons who may face additional barriers to accessing healthcare. The Ministry's ongoing commitment to affordable healthcare plays a crucial role in supporting the well-being of refugees and other vulnerable populations. With continued efforts to expand services and improve healthcare delivery, the Ministry of Health is essential in fostering a healthier community for all Belizeans and displaced individuals alike.

Social Protection



To raise awareness and foster acceptance, the Refugees Department hosted an event on World Refugee Day, emphasizing the importance of integrating forcibly displaced individuals into local communities. With 117 recorded attendees, this initiative aimed to sensitize the public about the challenges faced by refugees while combating the negative stigma associated with displacement. The event's success was a step towards encouraging a more open and accepting society.

Furthermore, the Refugees Department established two child-friendly spaces at its

Belmopan main office and the Benque Viejo Refugee Information Center. These areas are specifically designed to create a welcoming environment for families seeking assistance, making the process less stressful for both children and parents. By prioritizing the emotional and psychological well-being of displaced families, the Department is taking a holistic approach to social protection. This understanding and support aim to bridge gaps between local communities and refugees, fostering a spirit of inclusion and compassion throughout Belize.





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Jobs and Livelihoods

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This year, the launch of the Good Practice Implementation Project has marked a significant step forward in promoting labour integration for forcibly displaced individuals. Conducted by the MIRPS National Technical Team under the Refugees Department's leadership, the project comprises four key components aimed at facilitating economic opportunities. The first component involves conducting a needs-based assessment survey to understand the skills and requirements of the displaced community. The second component is tailored training based on feedback from the assessment, ensuring that individuals are equipped with the necessary job skills. The third component focuses on enhancing access to economic integration, while the fourth

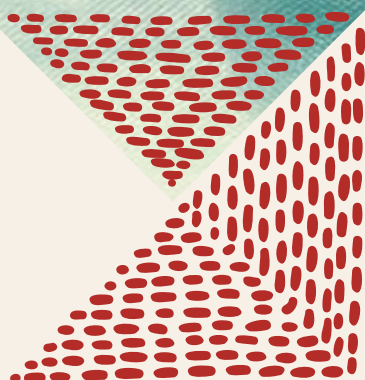
includes meetings with employers to discuss potential job placements.

UNHCR and its partners have played a vital role by allowing the Department to collaborate and conduct surveys at various documentation clinics. They will continue to support other aspects of the project as it progresses. Currently, the team is nearing completion of the first component and is making progress on the remaining stages.

Additionally, the amnesty project has seen 12,800 applications with 1,855 approvals this year. These initiatives collectively seek to empower forcibly displaced persons, enabling them to build sustainable livelihoods and contribute meaningfully to Belizean society.



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Asylum-seekers find hope through Belize's Amnesty Program

BY MATEO PRIVITERA TORRES

Marilyn* and Alejandra* arrived in Belize seeking safety after fleeing violence in their home country. Although their paths did not cross until they arrived in Belizean lands, they share a similar story. Through the Government of Belize's Amnesty Program, they found not only refuge, but also an opportunity to thrive and rebuild their lives.

Marilyn arrived in Belize in 2015 with her partner and daughter. "We never thought about leaving our home; it was something unexpected. The gangs started extorting us, and everything changed overnight," she recalls. In their country, they had a farm, but violence and extortion left them with no choice but to flee to save their lives.

Alejandra, on the other hand, arrived in Belize in 2016 with her two children. "My life was in danger, and I focused on my children since I am the only person they have," she comments. Initially, adaptation was not easy: "I like Belize, and we are adapting, but it's difficult. The cultures and language are different," Alejandra explains.

In Belize, both found new opportunities through programs supported by Help for Progress and UNHCR. Although they initially faced barriers such as language and lack of documentation, Marilyn and Alejandra decided to join a sewing course that changed their lives. "The process of adapting to this country is long, but with perseverance

“

The day I received the news that I could obtain my residency was a unique emotion and a feeling of hope.”

and discipline, everything will come together,” says Marilyn.

After the course, they forged a special friendship. Together, they opened a small sewing business, and their perseverance has been rewarded with a clientele that has grown over time.

The Amnesty Program in Belize has been a ray of hope for around 12,765 people who applied, including 737 asylum-seekers like Marilyn and Alejandra. “The day I received the news that I could obtain my residency was a unique emotion and a feeling of hope,” says Marilyn. For both, having documentation means much more than a legal document. “It’s the opportunity to give my

children a future, to see them grow up without fear, to open a bank account, and to access land.”

Marilyn and Alejandra now dream of expanding their business and ensuring a better future for their children. “I’m going to stay here. I no longer feel the fear and insecurity I felt before,” Alejandra says joyfully.

**Names changed for protection reasons.*







Costa Rica

NATIONAL CONTEXT

INDICATORS



Costa Rica has maintained its pledges to protect and attend to the needs of forcibly displaced people and those traveling in mixed movements.

Costa Rica continues to welcome people who have been forced to flee their countries and cross borders in search of international protection. Thanks to its long-standing democratic tradition, strong institutions, and commitment to protecting human rights, Costa Rica is now home to 226,029 persons in need of international protection, 22,344 of whom are recognized refugees, 211,750 are asylum-seekers and 336 are stateless persons.¹

The country continues to be a transit route for many people along their journey towards the north of the continent, with an estimated 269,200 people on the move, from January to September this year.

Costa Rica has maintained its pledges to protect and attend to the needs of forcibly displaced people and those traveling in mixed movements. The country's commitment to honour its pledges related to international protection has also been reflected in its actions with other countries as well as domestically. Costa Rica made multilateralism the cornerstone of its response for addressing forced displacement mobilizing international

cooperation. The country has leveraged relevant international fora to advocate for joint action at a regional level and promoted cooperative efforts across different regional mechanisms to address the plight of refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons in the region and across the continent.

At the national level, the government has taken significant steps to grant access to the Costa Rican asylum system and to facilitate the integration of asylum-seekers into Costa Rican society. Such measures reverse the changes implemented through the December 2022 executive decree 43810, which established a deadline to submit asylum claims and narrowed the requirements to apply for a work permit.

In June, the government issued a new executive decree (number 44501) removing the previously established deadline for claiming asylum and extending to asylum-seekers the same protection entitlements and safeguards granted to refugees, while their claim is being resolved. In terms of socio-economic integration, the decree repeals the requirements for the granting of a work permit,

¹ Data provided by the Government Migration Office (Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería, DGME) as of 30 September 2024.

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which included having an employment contract and being registered in social security. From 1 July 2024 – with the entry into force of the new decree – asylum-seekers in Costa Rica receive an identification document and a work permit, allowing them to carry out formal work under the current labour legislation.

These new measures ensure that the rights of asylum-seekers in Costa Rica are respected and reflect the Costa Rican government's commitment to honor its pledges on international protection.

PROGRESS

Protection



MODERNIZATION OF THE COSTA RICAN ASYLUM SYSTEM.

In May 2024, the Government of Costa Rica adopted a strategy to reduce the backlog and efficiently manage new asylum claims. The strategy encompasses eight deliverables to be submitted by December 2024: 1) Profile analysis for at-risk Nicaraguans (the output is undergoing the final revision stage); 2) Archive organisation (which is 90% complete); 3) Early process completion – data-based solutions (system adaptations for closures are being completed); 4) Data update and confirmation exercise (exercise started in October 2024); 5) Differentiated case processing modalities (simplified/accelerated differentiated

process in progress); 6) Digitalization of the asylum system; 7) Improvements in the coordination of the strategy; and 8) Enhanced capacity for processing new asylum claims. As part of the strategy, the government has taken measures that will facilitate refugees' access to documentation in two ways: firstly, it has gradually increased its capacity to process asylum claims (from 250 to 510 interviews per week between January 2023 and September 2024), leading to a 44% rise in the number of claims compared with the previous eight months; secondly, the Executive Decree 44501, issued in May, has removed previous barriers to the access to work permits, resulting in more than 31,000 work permits being issued to asylum-seekers between January and September 2024.

Healthcare



ESTABLISHMENT OF A COLLECTIVE HEALTHCARE ARRANGEMENT, IN THE FORM OF TEMPORARY VOLUNTARY INSURANCE FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND REFUGEES, TO GUARANTEE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE AND FACILITATE THEIR INTEGRATION.

In 2020, the Costa Rican government, through its Social Security System (CCSS, by its Spanish acronym) – the national public healthcare service provider – signed an agreement with UNHCR to provide basic healthcare insurance to 6,000 asylum-seekers and refugees with chronic health conditions and no other medical insurance plan. The agreement has been periodically renewed since then, until 2024, when a fifth agreement

was signed, granting medical coverage to 5,000 people from January to December 2024. Given its impact, this initiative is considered a good practice and served as a benchmark for cooperation with international partners. Therefore, it was used as a model for a parallel agreement signed among the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN, by its Spanish acronym), the University of Costa Rica, and the CCSS to extend the medical insurance to an additional 3,775 people from September 2023 to August 2024. The agreement – signed in September – was financed by the European Union through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID, by its Spanish acronym).

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Jobs and livelihoods



PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL EMPLOYABILITY STRATEGY FOR MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN COSTA RICA.

This strategy is part of the Health Coverage and Access to Decent Employment for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Vulnerable Conditions Project in Costa Rica, which is funded by the European Union and led by AECID. By strengthening employment intermediation services, the strategy aims to propose solutions to this population's limited access to work

and to facilitate their job search. So far this year, and within the framework of this strategy, 520 refugees have registered on the brete.cr platform, and intermediation services have been provided to 14 refugees and 12 asylum-seekers. As a multi-sectoral initiative that brings together the efforts of various actors, discussions and webinars have been held with the private sector to raise awareness among 105 companies for the recruitment of refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants. Similarly, employment intermediation talks on the recruitment and employability of this population have been given to 23 companies

and 16 civil society organizations. A job fair was also held in the province of Guanacaste, with 1,797 job openings in high-demand sectors such as tourism, construction, and commerce. Additionally,

employment inspectors from the National Inspection Directorate were trained on human trafficking and refugees' labor rights protection through five capacity-building workshops.

Education



THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION (MEP, BY ITS SPANISH ACRONYM) HAS MADE PROGRESS IN ITS EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO ENSURE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR REFUGEE AND ASYLUM-SEEKER CHILDREN AND THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE COSTA RICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM.

Firstly, an Intra-Institutional Working Team for Support to Students of Foreign Origin, at Risk of Statelessness and Returnees was formed by means of an official note DVM-AC-0080-01-2024, dated 31 January 2024, which addresses actions or situations that may involve these populations.

In addition, audiovisual material was produced in commemoration of World Refugee Day to raise awareness among students, teachers, and educators on refugees' contribution to Costa Rican society and to promote their integration. This material was broadcast on the radio and posted on social media. The MEP also trained all its educational supervisors (202 people) from the country's Regional Education Directorates on matters related to access to the public education system for people on the move, support of positive coexistence in educational spaces, promotion of interculturalism, and combating xenophobia.



Costa Rica is the home where an asylum-seeker has found stability and peace

BY NATALIA DIAZ AND MATEO PRIVITERA

Six years ago, Yomaira and her family were forced to leave Venezuela after receiving threats. They feared losing their home, not being able to access food, and struggling to provide their children with an education in a safe place.

“They were threatening not to sell us the food they usually sold, simply because we no longer supported their political ideology,” said Yomaira.

Displaced due to this situation, she and her family tried to integrate into other countries. However, continuous travels and incidents of xenophobic violence wore Yomaira, her husband, and children

down. After a difficult journey through the Darién jungle, they made it to Costa Rica in April 2024.

In Los Chiles, a Costa Rican community close to the Nicaraguan border, Yomaira found the peace of mind that she so desperately needed and was able to apply for asylum and receive support for her family. Through the Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social (Joint Institute for Social Aid, IMAS, by its Spanish acronym), World Vision, and the local organization CENDEROS, Yomaira’s situation began to improve.



My greatest achievement here in Costa Rica – and I say this with great pride – is to have found peace. I feel very much at peace and extremely relieved, and we have gradually been buying little things for ourselves.”

65

For Yomaira, the key elements in her integration process are the stable employment that she and her husband have secured and the support of the community. Her children have also been given free access to public healthcare and education, in compliance with Costa Rican law.

“Whether it’s at the hospital or at school, they treat you with so much love. It’s been many years since I last heard those words: ‘It’s our pleasure, we’re here to help you.’ I really like all that the community of Los Chiles has to offer, both to natives and to us,” Yomaira explains.

“My greatest achievement here in Costa Rica – and I say this with great pride – is to have found peace. I feel very much at peace and extremely relieved, and we have gradually been buying little things for ourselves.”







El Salvador

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Indicators

**386¹**

NUMBER OF DISPLACED PERSONS or persons at risk of displacement assisted in the “*A tu Lado*” (By Your Side) support spaces by the time of closing this report.

**7 months**

MAXIMUM PROCESSING TIME from registration to first instance asylum adjudication.

**761²**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACCESSED the *Mi Primer Trabajo* (My First Job) programme of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MTPS, by its Spanish acronym).

Since joining the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) in 2019, El Salvador began a process of transformation, with safety, creation of opportunities and social cohesion at its core, marking a new chapter in the country's history. This vision has also been reflected in the strategies promoted to comprehensively address the challenges of the changing context of human mobility and its causes in El Salvador.

In this regard, El Salvador has continued to demonstrate its firm commitment to the principle of responsibility-sharing that guides the Global Compact on Refugees, and its operationalisation through the MIRPS. This has been key

¹ Data on the attention provided by the Directorate for Victim Services (DAV, by its Spanish acronym) in the Support Spaces “*A tu Lado*” (By Your Side) until September 2024.

² Data on participants of the *Mi Primer Trabajo* (My First Job) programme linked to an apprenticeship contract until September 2024.

El Salvador has continued to demonstrate its firm commitment to the principle of responsibility-sharing that guides the Global Compact on Refugees, and its operationalisation through the MIRPS.

to strengthening and adapting protection arrangements and solutions to these challenges and ensuring that people who were victims of historical violence, and who now seek State-support to claim their rights and to access to specialised services, such as legal advice, psychological support, education, decent work opportunities, natural disaster mitigation and reintegration into their communities of origin, receive such support in a timely manner.

In this spirit, in 2024, the National Technical Team carried out an exercise to update its national commitments and the Directorate for Social Fabric Reconstruction (DRTS, by its Spanish acronym) was incorporated into this framework, promoting actions that contribute to the creation of spaces for peaceful coexistence, community organisation and the promotion of sport, art, and culture, with a special focus on youth. Similarly, the National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and

Adolescence (CONAPINA, by its Spanish acronym) also collaborated with the MIRPS, strengthening psychosocial care services and livelihoods opportunities to protect the mental health of children, adolescents, and their families and ensuring their integration.

National policies on human mobility respond to the needs of those who require international protection, guaranteeing their fundamental rights. Currently, with the support of strategic partners, the shelter system has been modernised, with the construction of a new reception centre for asylum-seekers, which will be operational before the end of next year. This centre will not only be a physical space, but also a symbol of the respect and dignity with which El Salvador receives those in need of protection. All these actions are part of a national context that seeks social integration, the generation of opportunities and the provision of protection and durable solutions.

PROGRESS

Protection



International Protection Diploma for Immigration Officials

75 immigration officials completed the in-person training on Comprehensive Protection, which was carried out by the Directorate General for Migration and Foreigners (DGME, by its Spanish acronym), with UNHCR's support, with a duration of 18 hours.

Strengthening and modernisation of the asylum system

To ensure that individuals seeking international protection in El Salvador receive dignified and respectful assistance, the *Comisión para la Determinación de la Condición de Personas Refugiadas* (Commission for Refugee Status Determination, CODER, by its Spanish acronym) has made progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Support Protocol for Asylum-Seekers and Refugees, launched at the end of 2023. To this end, seven training sessions have been conducted for various institutions, benefiting a total of 167 public officials and representatives from non-governmental organisations. The construction of a new service area for users, set to open in November this year, has been completed. Additionally, the design of a computer system to streamline the processing and resolution of asylum applications is underway.

Efforts at the community level to rebuild social fabric

DRTS, in coordination with its Urban Well-being and Opportunities Centres (CUBOS, by its Spanish acronym), launched the first phase of "Grafitour," an initiative that combines curatorial workshops with local communities, providing a foundation for street artists to express community sentiment through graffiti, thereby promoting the recovery of public spaces and preserve collective memory.

Modernisation of the National Civil Protection System

The mapping of processes to optimise efficiency, coordination, and transparency in the management of humanitarian resources has begun, led by the General Directorate for Civil Protection, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. This initiative marks the first step toward developing a national information system for humanitarian assistance logistics. The system will enhance the management of resources, strengthening and streamlining responses to and mitigation of natural disasters, particularly in vulnerable communities affected by adverse events.

Education



The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT, by its Spanish acronym) continues to guarantee the right to education for displaced children, adolescents, and young people or those at risk of displacement.

As of September 2024, 548 returnee migrants have been assisted with alternative educational modalities, thanks to the expansion of the *Programa de Modalidades Flexibles* (Flexible Modalities Programme) aimed at ensuring educational continuity. Likewise, the *Guía de Atención a Estudiantes y Docentes Desplazados o en Riesgo de Desplazamiento Forzado Interno* (Guide for Supporting Displaced Students and Teachers or Those at Risk of Internal Displacement) was updated and is incorporated into the Legislation on Human Rights for Children and

Adolescents in force in the country, through the *Ley Crecer Juntos para la Protección Integral de la Primera Infancia, Niñez y Adolescencia* (Growing Together Law for the Comprehensive Protection of Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence). The Guide will be released once approved.

According to the “Growing Together Law,” all children and adolescents are guaranteed the right to free education until age 18, ensuring educational access for children and adolescents in situations of displacement. The *Sistema de Información de la Gestión Educativa Salvadoreña* (Salvadoran Education Management Information System, SIGES, by its Spanish acronym) records the variable “returnee” for the timely follow-up of displaced students.



Healthcare



ISDEMU continues to expand attention services and protection response.

Whether through in-person or remote services, such as the specialised attention centres, *126 Te Orienta* (126 Guides You), *126 Te Orienta Sin Fronteras* (126 Guides You Without Borders), and the protection centres for women survivors of violence, including those on the move or at risk of displacement, comprehensive support is provided. At these centres, women of all ages and their children up to 11 years old receive specialized care from a multidisciplinary team of lawyers,

psychologists, social workers, doctors, educators, and caregivers.

From January to September 2024, 86,054 comprehensive healthcare services have been provided. On the other hand, the Specialised Centres for Women, in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MINSAL, by its Spanish acronym), have carried out 14 Comprehensive Health Days to bring exclusive health services to women at the community level, with 1,296 services that have benefited 797 women.





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Jobs and livelihoods



The Mi Primer Trabajo (My First Job) programme continues to generate employability opportunities for displaced persons or persons at risk of displacement, refugees, and asylum-seekers.

By September 2024, the initiative led by the MTPS has successfully linked 761 individuals to formal employment. Since its launch, over 1,487 people have received training in soft skills for employment, and more than 200 companies have joined the programme. The programme's success rate in terms of long-term retention in the formal sector surpasses the national formal employability rate.

CONAPINA promotes the strengthening of durable solutions for returnee families with protection needs.

Families are supported through seed funding for entrepreneurship, access to scholarships, and humanitarian assistance, with a particular focus on protecting children and adolescents. This effort is coordinated in collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS) MIRPS Fund. To date, the

project is 79% complete and has benefited a total of 296 individuals.

Displaced women or at risk of displacement, refugees, and asylum-seeker due to violence against women have access to seed funding.

A project implemented by the Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women, ISDEMU, by its Spanish acronym) has provided support to 80 displaced women or at risk of displacement, refugees, and asylum-seeker survivors of gender-based violence, through self-care workshops aimed at strengthening their agency and empowering them. In addition, approximately 30 of these participants will receive seed funding to start up their business idea and enhance their autonomy. This initiative is being coordinated within the framework of the MIRPS Good Practice Implementation Project of the MIRPS Support Platform.



Joana and the CUBOs: Leading change from community spaces

BY FRANKLYN RUIZ

A few years ago, living in Joana's community entailed many risks. Gangs controlled the area and extorted money from families, including her own. "They demanded money from us to be protected," she recalls. "My family couldn't pay, so we had to leave." To feel safe, Joana fled to her grandmother's house.

Years later, she was able to return home to San Salvador, determined to make a difference. Back in her neighbourhood, she discovered her passion for community work. She joined the youth committee and, together with other young people, she began to organise activities to integrate everyone in the area. "We painted the walls to erase gang symbols and created

spaces where neighbours felt like part of the community," she says.

Joana is the coordinator of the Centro Urbano de Bienestar y Oportunidades (Urban Well-being and Opportunities Centre, CUBO, by its Spanish acronym) in her community. This centre, one of 12 supported by UNHCR, is an initiative of the Government of El Salvador that offers activities that promote peaceful coexistence and community well-being. "We organise workshops for children, young people, and adults. The CUBO is a safe place where everyone can come to share, learn, and enjoy," explains Joana proudly.

In support of El Salvador's National Plan for the implementation of the MIRPS, UNHCR

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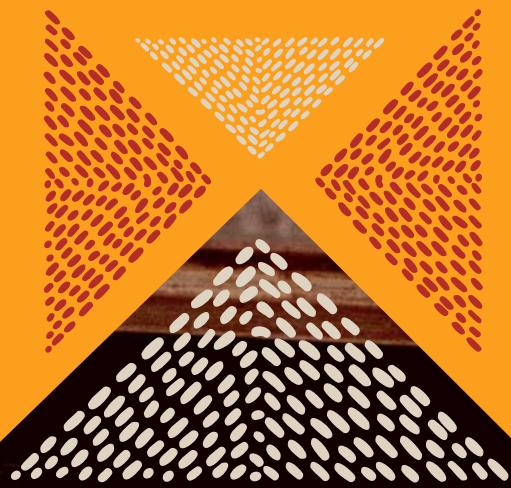
We painted the walls
to erase gang symbols
and created spaces
where neighbours
felt like part of the
community.”

provides technical assistance and equipment to strengthen these spaces with the goal of improving coexistence and promoting integration in communities historically affected by violence. Working hand in hand with communities, it contributes to the prevention of forced displacement and helps people find solutions.

For Joana, working at the CUBO is a commitment to the future of her community. “Here, everyone has a place. It’s a safe place where we can work together for the well-being of everyone in the community.”



LINK TO FULL STORY:



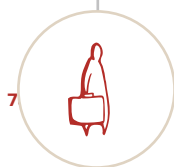
Guatemala



NATIONAL CONTEXT

Indicators

GUATEMALAN MIGRATION INSTITUTE



511

NUMBER OF PERSONS
legally recognized as
refugees in 2024.



1,753

**NUMBER OF
ASYLUM-SEEKERS.**



24

**TRAINING SESSIONS
ON ASYLUM**, international
Protection and case review
procedures for officials of the
Guatemalan Migration Institute
(IGM, by its Spanish acronym)



4

TRAINING SESSIONS ON ASYLUM
and international protection issues
for members of the National
Commission for Refugees (CONARE,
by its Spanish acronym).



427

**CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT
asylum-seekers.**



94

**CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT
REFUGEES.**

Guatemala is a country that stands in solidarity with refugees, providing assistance with a human rights approach.

Guatemala is a country that shows solidarity with refugees. Through various activities led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the National Technical Team (ETN, by its Spanish acronym), it continues to work on the inclusion of **refugees, asylum-seekers and persons on the move with protection needs**, providing support with a **human rights-based approach** that enables their integration into society. These pledges have been reaffirmed in different spaces by the Constitutional President of the Republic, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the High Commissioner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The ETN, in fulfilment of its 2024 MIRPS National Action Plan, highlights some of the most relevant results: **1)** management of the **decentralisation of the Department for the Recognition of Refugee Status (DRER, by its Spanish acronym)**, which seeks to improve access to services for the refugee population, asylum-seekers and persons on the move with protection needs; **2)** launch of **four guides for social inclusion and their guidance manual** by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTRAB, by its Spanish acronym), for companies to include vulnerable populations; **3)** implementation of **good practices** through the *Casa Joven* (Youth House) programme of the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency (SBS, by its Spanish acronym); and **4)** the **skills certification process regarding technical**



79

vocational competencies of the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC, by its Spanish acronym); and recognition of the personal identification document (DPI-E, by its Spanish acronym) to access any educational and technical training programme offered by the institution.

In relation to point 3 above, the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with UNHCR and the MIRPS Support Platform, **conducted an Exchange of Good Practices** with the of Directorate for Social Fabric Reconstruction of El Salvador. This was an opportunity to become familiar with the programme and implement activities to strengthen the five *Casas Jóvenes*. The visit was fruitful, as it offered the opportunity to talk to the beneficiary population as well as with the program's management team. This was made possible thanks to the support and leadership of the Foreign Ministries of both countries.

MUNICIPALITIES AND DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENTS



19

AGREEMENTS SIGNED within the framework of Cities of Solidarity.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY



56

WORK PERMITS GRANTED TO REFUGEES.



250

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS familiarised with and trained to use the PEX platform.



544

WORK PERMITS GRANTED to asylum-seekers.



30

EMPLOYERS TRAINED TO USE THE PEX PLATFORM.



75

OFFICIALS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY (MINTRAB, by its Spanish acronym) trained to use the PEX platform.

SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARIAT OF THE PRESIDENCY



2420

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS in need of international protection who are supported at *Casa Nuestras Raíces* in Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango.



10,075

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, AND YOUNG PEOPLE at social risk reached by the *Casa Joven* programme.



15

ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE trained as part of the *Servidor Cívico Social* (Social Civic Servant) project within the framework of the *Casa Joven* Amatitlán Model in 2024.

Note: Data for asylum-seekers and refugees include the period of 1 September 2023 to 30 September 2024.

In October, the SBS held a **training session with the 34 officials of the five Casas Jóvenes** in order to share the experiences learned and begin to outline the first steps to implementing such experiences within the methodology of the *Casas Jóvenes*.

Another achievement of this year was the **II National Cities of Solidarity Conference**, led by the Government of Guatemala and the Municipality of Guatemala City as host of the event, with the support of UNHCR. While nine Cities of Solidarity were reported in 2023, the year closes with the addition of 10 more cities, bringing the total to **19 local governments that are committed to this model**.

This Conference was attended by officials from various Ministries, Departments and Directorates of the Executive branch. The Vice-President of the Republic was also present, who **encouraged local governments to unite and work together for refugees**. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, a close ally of this initiative, emphasised the relevance of this model as a benchmark at the regional level to provide protection and education services, and guaranteeing refugees' access to livelihoods. Likewise, the event counted on the presence of representatives and officials from various local governments in the region, including representation from Montevideo, Uruguay, as well as representatives of the Organization of American States (OAS). This space enabled the exchange of knowledge, good practices and the socialisation of specific programmes promoted by the Municipality of Guatemala in the areas of education and entrepreneurship, among others.

PROGRESS

Protection



The DRER, of the Sub-Directorate for Attention and Protection of Fundamental Rights of Migrants (SAPDFM, by its Spanish acronym) of the Guatemalan Migration Institute, has begun the process of **decentralization with the aim of improving access to the asylum procedure and bringing services closer to the population with international protection needs and on the move**, by opening an office in the municipality of Esquipulas, Department of Chiquimula, in order to provide attention, guidance and registration of claims, conduct interviews and carry out the necessary monitoring to promote the local integration of refugees and asylum-seekers. Additionally, beginning in October, **clinical psychological care** was provided to persons

seeking asylum and who need **psychotherapeutic assistance, psychological first aid, or crisis care**.

This initiative was implemented because asylum-seekers may suffer from mental health problems and emotional disorders in some cases. With a view to providing specialized care, the Child and Adolescent Care and Protection Unit of the Care and Protection Department of the IGM's SAPDFM, in collaboration with the DRER, **has provided monthly workshops**, for parents and caregivers of children and adolescent asylum-seekers and refugees on topics of interest, in order to provide **timely care** for children and adolescents, covering the management of emotions, self-care, positive parenting and their educational situation.





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Social Protection



The SBS, through the **specialised team of the Casa Joven programme**, provides adolescents, young adults and families with access to **psychosocial care**, as well as the opportunity to reintegrate into the **education system** and undertake **professional training**, in partnership with the Technical Institute for Training and Productivity (INTECAP, by its Spanish acronym), among other community activities.

From January to October 2024, **10,075 children, adolescents and young people at social risk** have been assisted with a view to **preventing violence**, particularly by organized crime groups such as gangs. Support is also provided through a **school program for parents** which seeks to detect

any dangerous situations within the family at an early stage.

Within the framework of the **MIRPS Good Practice Implementation Project**, an exchange of good practices was carried out with the Department of Social Fabric Reconstruction, through El CUBO in San Salvador, El Salvador. This exchange has enriched the activities that were put forward in the work proposal presented to the MIRPS Support Platform, directly benefiting the *Casas Jovenes* of Villa Nueva and Amatitlán, and indirectly benefitting the rest of the Houses, which, in turn, has had a positive impact on the development of activities with the engaged population.

Jobs and Livelihoods



MINTRAB is responsible for overseeing the legal framework related to work, technical and vocational training, and social welfare, and also supports opportunities for refugees and asylum-seekers in Guatemala to enter the National Employment Service.

Through the *Plataforma Electrónica de Permisos a Extranjeros* (Electronic Platform for Work Permits for Foreigners), from January to September 2024, **56 work permits** were approved for refugees and **544 permits were approved** for asylum-seekers. A total of **250 refugees** and asylum-seekers have also been trained on the use and accessibility of

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the platform, in coordination with UNHCR and its partner, World Vision, as well as **30 employers**, to facilitate the recruitment of refugees and asylum-seekers, and **75 public officials**.

On 31 July 2024, the Programa Empléate Inclusivo (Employ Yourself Inclusive Programme) was re-launched, with the support of the business sector and strategic partners. The Programme includes all populations in vulnerable situations and will be supported by the **four Labour Inclusion Guides**, which will serve as guidelines for companies to integrate people from these populations as part of their corporate social responsibility activities.

Now that the Agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American

States (OAS) and MINTRAB for implementing the project “Facilitación de la inclusión laboral de la población solicitante de la condición de refugiado y refugiados en Guatemala” (“Facilitation of the labour inclusion of the asylum-seeker and refugee population in Guatemala”) has been signed, the platform will be strengthened and work permit procedures will be streamlined, allowing this population in any part of the country to be linked to the network of the National Employment Service. In this way, both the OAS, through the MIRPS Fund, and the Governments of Spain and Guatemala are working to “**leave no one behind**”, building a welcoming environment that provides employment opportunities.

Education



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The Non-Formal Education Subsystem, through the General Directorate of Non-Formal Education (DIGEEX, by its Spanish acronym) of the MINEDUC, promotes flexible and relevant programmes that **favour spaces for educational reintegration and vocational technical training** for refugees and asylum-seekers, so that they can be integrated into the National Education System.

In 2024, **labour skills** assessment workshops have been developed with the aim of **assessing, recognising, and certifying** the knowledge, skills, capabilities, abilities, and competencies of

persons with regard to carrying out an occupation or trade, in order to help generate opportunities that promote social and labour development with a view to improving living conditions, dignified employment and boosting people’s self-esteem. In this sense, the MINEDUC **recognises within its system the Personal Identification Document (DPI-E, by its Spanish acronym)**, allowing the entire refugee and asylum-seeker population to access any educational and technical training programme offered by the institution. To date this year, **61 persons have been certified** in different areas of work.

With every click, Enrique and Jenny build a new home in Guatemala

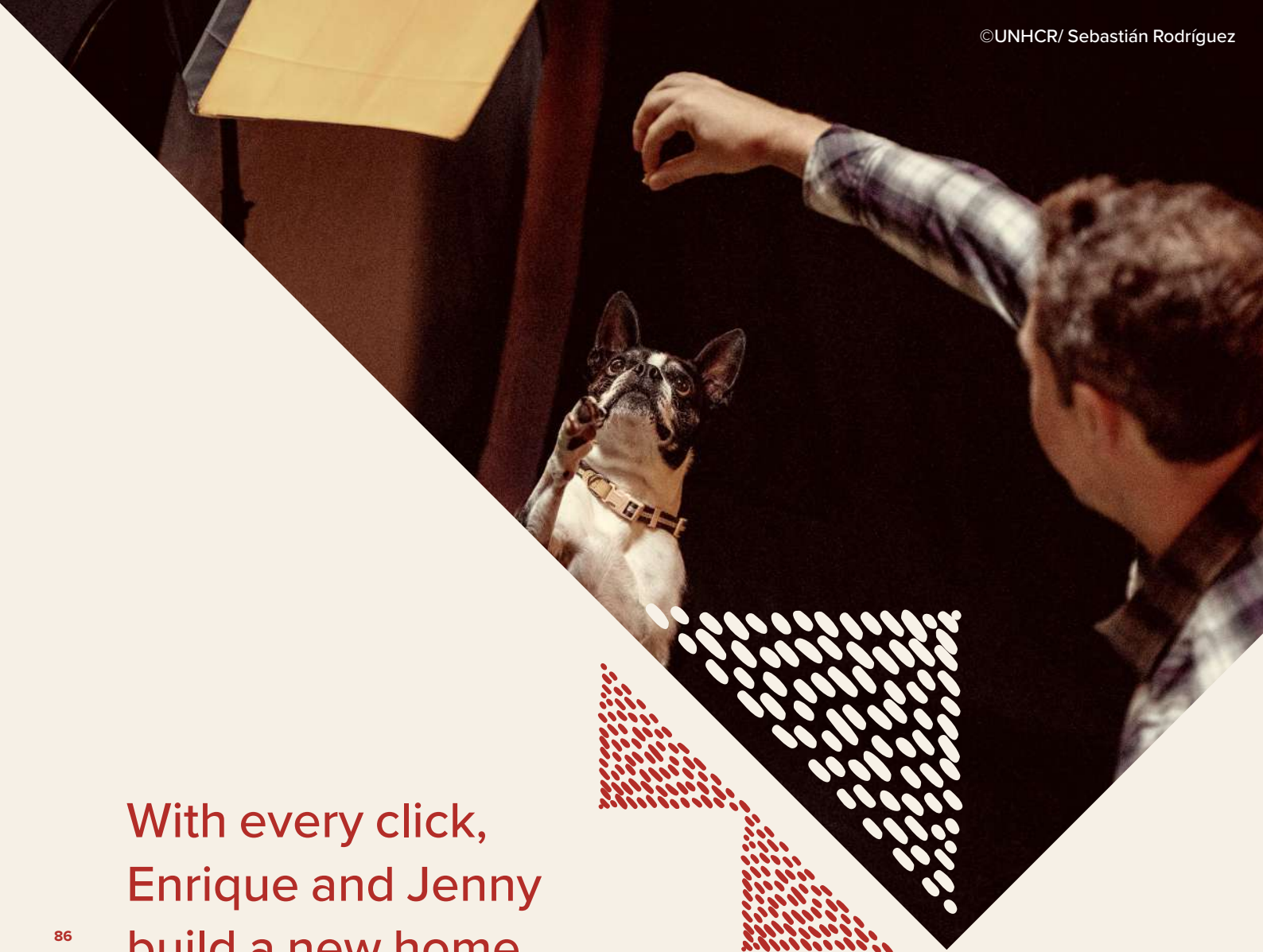
BY GABRIELA GUERRERO AND ARTURO ALMENAR

Enrique and Jenny have made their photo studio not only a place of work, but also a space where their clients feel comfortable and welcome. Each photo shoot reflects their joint effort to keep moving forward in Guatemala, where they are rebuilding their lives.

Through the Youth Ready programme, promoted by World Vision in collaboration with UNHCR, Enrique and Jenny have received training in areas such as computers and finance, with the aim of becoming greater entrepreneurs and improving their job prospects.

“They made us feel at home from the very start. I have no words to describe the pain of leaving your homeland and, at the same time, how they take you in with so much affection,” says Enrique with emotion.

In addition to their training, Enrique and Jenny attend the Centro Municipal de Emprendimiento (Municipal Centre for Entrepreneurship), a project by the municipality of Guatemala within the framework of the Cities of Solidarity initiative and in line with Guatemala’s pledges as part of the MIRPS, which seeks to improve participants’ technical and labour skills.





We have found hope
far from our home and
that motivates us to
keep moving forward
with our dreams.”

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“Government institutions, UNHCR, World Vision and all the people we have met have given us a hand, and that has helped us. We have found hope far from our home and that motivates us to keep moving forward with our dreams,” says Jenny.

Their business grew from its beginnings in a borrowed space. Now, they have set up their own studio and have started offering services in recreational spaces provided by the municipality of Guatemala, integrating themselves even further into the local community.

“Thanks to government bodies, we have documents that allow us to work. There are suitcases that we just can’t bring ourselves to

unpack, as they make us think of our homeland, but they have helped us to move forward and not feel alone. Thank you for standing with the refugees and making us feel that we can rebuild our home,” say Enrique and Jenny, holding hands.



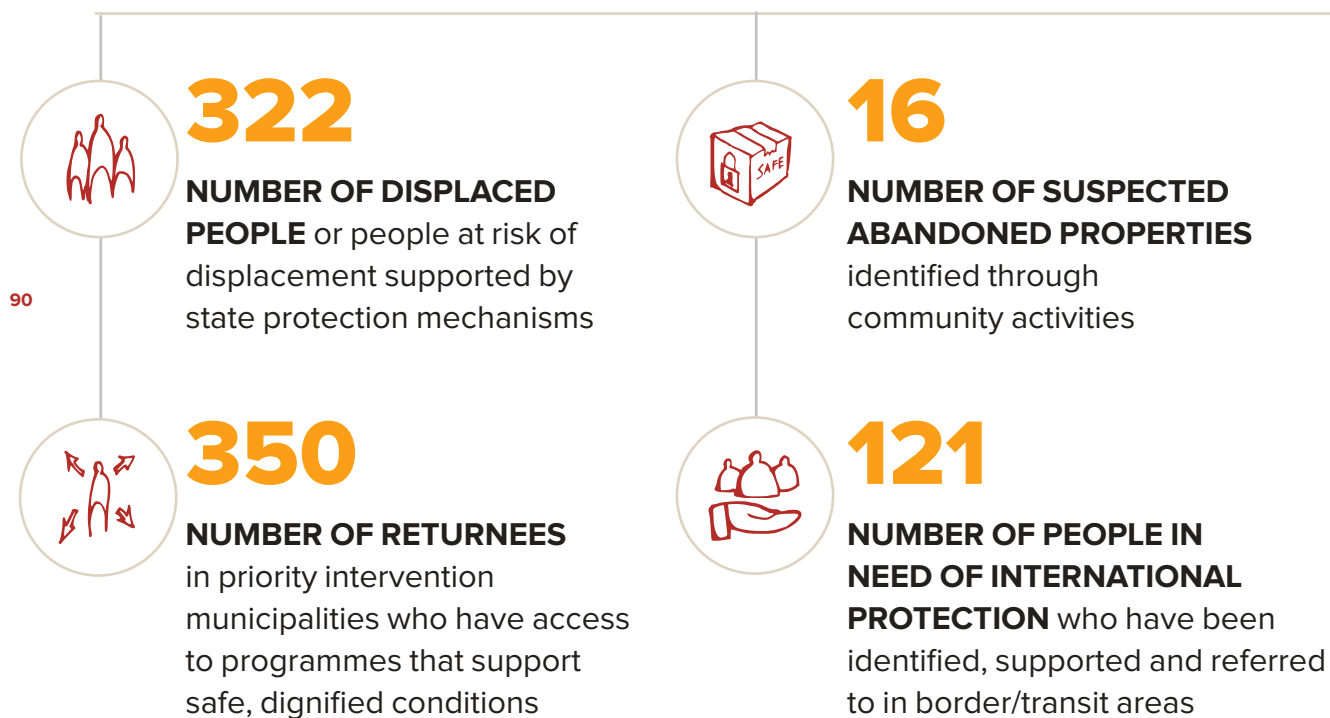
Honduras





NATIONAL CONTEXT

Indicators



Through the ground-breaking Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced People, which became effective in April 2023, Honduras has set an example in preventing and responding to internal displacement.

Honduras faces complex challenges related to human mobility. It has historically been a country of origin, transit, and destination, where the number of people moving within and across its borders has increased significantly. Since 2015, a total of 599,702 Hondurans have returned, a situation that has put the response capacity of the national system to the test. The national system has faced difficulties in providing comprehensive care adapted to the reintegration and protection needs of these people. The demand exceeds current resources and operational capacity, hindering the implementation of an approach focused on assistance and reintegration that is sustainable and effective over time.

There is a constant flow of people in transit in Honduras. As of 30 September 2024, the National Migration Institute (Instituto Nacional de Migración, INM) registered the irregular entry of more than 319,318 people – that is, 21,293 fewer arrivals than those registered in 2023, as of the same date. This trend reflects the persistence of structural inequality factors that drive vulnerable population sectors towards migration routes. The State's capacity to manage this influx has been exceeded, intensifying humanitarian needs in various regions of the country.

Through the ground-breaking Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced People (*Ley para la Prevención, Atención y Protección de las Personas Desplazadas Internamente*), which became effective in April 2023, Honduras has set an example in preventing and responding to internal displacement. Following the adoption of this law (through Legislative Decree No. 154-2022), significant progress has been made, such as the drafting of the law's regulations. To this end, a five-day consultation was held, called "The Voices of Forced Displacement in Honduras," in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choluteca, La Esperanza and La Ceiba. A total of 170 people – including women, men, girls, boys, adolescents, young people, indigenous peoples, Afro-Hondurans, LGBTIQ+ people, civil society organisations and community leaders – participated in these consultations. In addition, six workshops were held with 25 public institutions that are part of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced People (CIPPDEF, in Spanish). In September 2024, the CIPPDEF held an extraordinary meeting to review the regulations before they were officially adopted by the Honduran Congress.

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Despite these efforts, internal displacement due to violence remains a serious problem in Honduras. Between 2004 and 2018, more than 247,090 people were internally displaced due to various factors, including territorial control by criminal groups, extortion, forced recruitment, dispossession, gender-based violence, political violence, human rights violations, and the effects of climate change. This phenomenon is particularly visible in urban areas such as the Central District and San Pedro Sula, where insecurity and a lack of opportunities aggravate the situation.

Aware of the seriousness of internal displacement, Honduras has taken various actions to address

the phenomenon. At the municipal level, initiatives such as “Cities of Solidarity” seek to offer essential services and support the integration of displaced people, thus strengthening social cohesion. In addition, in collaboration with international organisations such as UNHCR, Honduras continues to work on preventive measures, including capacity building and the improvement of livelihood opportunities in impacted communities. These actions seek not only to mitigate the impact of displacement, but also to address the root causes behind it, fostering development and peace in the country.

PROGRESS

Protection



Through the Directorate for the Protection of People Internally Displaced by Violence (DIPPDIV, in Spanish), the Ministry of Human Rights has provided protection measures and humanitarian assistance to those internally displaced due to violence and/or at risk of displacement, as well as returnees with protection needs. The Ministry has done so through emergency relocation transfers, temporary hotel accommodation, shelter kits, cash assistance for relocation leases, food, early childhood kits, personal hygiene and cleanliness kits, clothing, emergency transfers, cash assistance, and relocation rent money through the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Mechanism (MAHE, in Spanish). In 2024, 93 cases were attended to, forming a total of 332 people (specifically, 80 girls, 105 women, 53 boys and 84 men). These cases have been tracked and monitored through home visits and telephone calls.

As part of the humanitarian assistance components, seed funding for livelihoods was also delivered to 15 cases in 2024, benefiting a total of 40 people (5 girls, 9 boys, 17 women and 9 men). This initiative aims to support beneficiaries in developing a productive activity with the help of a durable solutions officer. Once emergency humanitarian assistance has been delivered,

these actions allow that beneficiaries' basic needs be met.

In order to strengthen the capacity to respond to forced displacement at the local level, eight workshops were held with the municipalities of Distrito Central, Choluteca, Juticalpa, Catacamas, San Pedro Sula, El Progreso, Choloma and La Ceiba within the framework of the guidelines for the municipal response to internal displacement in Honduras. The aim of these guidelines is to put legal provisions into operation and advise municipal governments to keep moving forward with the implementation of the displacement law. A total of 106 municipal officials participated in these workshops.

In turn, the INM has implemented several measures to improve the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers and those in need of international protection, thereby guaranteeing their rights. Some notable measures include the strengthening of the legal framework by creating and amending laws that are in line with international standards. This, in turn, will facilitate clear processes to seek asylum and protection. The INM also works closely with international organisations such as UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to improve safety conditions and ensure access to basic and legal services. Likewise,

it has developed training programmes for its staff focused on human rights and international protection, ensuring adequate and sensitive treatment of these vulnerable populations. Similarly, the INM has created safe spaces to receive people in mixed movements, where they can access medical, psychological and legal assistance. It has also launched awareness-raising campaigns to inform refugees about their rights and available resources, helping to prevent abuses and guarantee their access to assistance. These initiatives seek to ensure the dignity, safety, and integration of refugees in Honduras.

Through the General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants (*Dirección General de Protección al Hondureño Migrante*) and the Office of Care for Returned Migrants (*Oficina de Atención al Migrante Retornado*), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (SRECI, in Spanish) has identified and attended to 350 returnees in need of international protection (as of 30 September 2024). These people have been referred to competent institutions to ensure a timely and adequate response, in coordination with the Returnee Attention Centres (*Centros de Atención al Migrante Retornado*). These centres have received 25,161 returnees, 1.39% of which is vulnerable and has required special care.

The General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants has finished developing a

Protocol on Support to Returnees with Protection Needs, which is currently being approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This protocol is the result of collaboration with various national and international entities, including the Ministry for Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENAF, in Spanish), the INM, the Ministry of Social Development (SDS, in Spanish) through the Office of Social Development (ODS, in Spanish), UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) and the staff assigned to returnee attention centres.

This protocol will significantly strengthen the identification and assistance provided to vulnerable returnees with protection needs. In addition, the already implemented care card will be integrated into the Social Development Observatory, guaranteeing the generation of reliable and updated data, which will be essential for the State of Honduras' policies regarding protection and comprehensive assistance.

This inter-institutional effort not only optimises immediate response capacity, but also supports the development of public policies based on solid data, and, in turn, the safety and protection of returned migrants.

Education



In order to improve the educational integration of refugees, the INM has implemented various initiatives to support their access to education in more inclusive and equitable conditions. The main actions include:

Facilitation of Documentation: The INM helps refugees obtain the required documentation to enrol in schools, ensuring that their migration status is not an obstacle.

Recognition of Previous Studies: In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the INM facilitates the process for validating previous studies conducted in the country of origin, allowing refugees to continue their education without losing the progress they have made.

Accelerated Education Programmes: In conjunction with agencies such as UNHCR, the INM promotes alternative and accelerated education programmes for those whose education has been interrupted due to displacement.

Access to Scholarships and Support: The INM has worked with international organizations to provide scholarships and financial support to cover school expenditures and ensure that refugee students have access to education.

These measures aim to reduce barriers to accessing education and support integration of refugees into the Honduran education system.

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Healthcare



Over the past year, significant progress was made in the healthcare sector for refugees and migrants. The most notable milestones include the implementation of individualised healthcare and the launch of a public tender for medicines, ensuring wider and more equitable access. Vaccination programmes were also integrated into the Migrant Attention Centres (*Centros de Atención al Migrante*, CAMI) and equipped clinics

in these centres, improving the quality of service. Likewise, relationships were strengthened with the Ministry of Health, and dental brigades have been set up to provide dental care to refugees. Agreements were established with various partner organisations in the healthcare sector, therefore strengthening the support and collaboration network in order to continue providing quality services.

Housing, Land and Property Protection



Based on available information, less than 30% of properties in Honduras are currently duly registered with the *Instituto de la Propiedad* (Property Institute). In response, supported by UNHCR, the Property Institute has launched the campaign “*Tu hogar registrado, tu derecho asegurado*” (“Your home registered, your right secured”), with the aim of raising awareness on the importance, benefits and protective impact of registering property and regularising ownership. This campaign aims to prevent arbitrary dispossession and protect the housing, land and property (HLP) rights of displaced populations by providing legal guidance on property registration procedures and mechanisms. Throughout 2024, four information fairs have been organised in Tegucigalpa, Juticalpa, San Pedro Sula and La

Esperanza, providing specialised legal advice to more than 200 people.

In addition, the legal protection mechanism for housing, land and property rights, established by the Displacement Law, is currently in the process of being legally adopted by the Property Institute. The registry and legal directorates of the Institute, with the support of UNHCR, have drafted the Executive Agreement for the Creation of the Registry of Abandoned and Dispossessed Property (*Registro de Bienes Abandonados y Despojados*, RBA) and the Claims Registry (*Registro de Pretensiones*, REP). This key tool for the protection of internally displaced people in the country is expected to be operational from 2025.

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Social Protection



The INM has implemented various actions to improve the social protection of refugees, facilitating their integration and access to essential services. Measures include collaborating with the healthcare system and other institutions to ensure equal access to healthcare, education and social support services. In addition, with the support of international organisations, psychosocial support programmes have been launched to help refugees cope with the trauma of displacement.

In partnership with UNHCR, the Honduran Red Cross and the Norwegian Refugee Council, the INM provides temporary economic support and food aid to cover basic needs while refugees settle in the country. In addition, it has also been providing legal guidance and assistance to ensure that refugees understand their rights, access social protection and address potential discrimination. These actions reflect INM’s commitment to the protection and dignity of refugees in Honduras.

Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced People in Statistical Systems



Since 2023, the National Institute of Statistics (*Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas*, INE), in coordination with the Ministry of Human Rights and with the support of UNHCR, has been producing statistical information on forced displacement in the country.

The institute is currently compiling its 2023 report, which will present findings on the causes of forced displacement, such as crime and violence, and climate change (natural disasters or catastrophes), among other variables related to living conditions. The report will also include maps showing the origin and return of internal displacement in Honduras.

The module on forced displacement is included in the Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey (*Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples*, EPHPM), which is conducted through four annual surveys and by drawing on an estimated sample of 7,428 households per survey, covering the country's 18 departments. The survey is designed in such a way as to allow for an analysis at the national level, as well as in the Distrito Central, San Pedro Sula, urban and rural areas and at the department level, by integrating the four surveys, with an estimated 28,800 households studied.



Jobs and Livelihoods



Supported by UNHCR, throughout 2024, the Ministry of Labour and the Institute for Vocational Training (*Instituto de Formación Profesional, INFOP*) implemented the Labour Relations Internships project, financially supported by the United States as part of the MIRPS Support Platform. This programme has benefited 92 young interns in five departments of the country (Francisco Morazán, Cortés, Choluteca, El Paraíso and Ocotepeque), covering a total of 17 municipalities.

Of the 92 participants, 73 are internally displaced young people, 13 are people at risk of displacement and 6 belong to other forcibly displaced groups. It is also worth noting that 47% of participants are women. The interns carried out their internships in 68 companies, 41% of which provide additional support, either financial or in kind. The job profiles most in demand include electrical technicians, mechanics, refrigeration experts, office automation and systems personnel, administrative staff and customer service and sales professionals.

The beneficiaries have undergone registration and workspace identification processes within

the business sector, seeking and identifying spaces where they have opportunities to continue working once they complete their internship. While following up on beneficiaries, it was found that 61% of the interns have received or have a high probability of receiving a job offer from the companies involved. Of those who have already received an offer, 87% have accepted it and joined these companies.

In implementing these actions, the Honduran Government aims to help vulnerable young people enter the job market, especially internally displaced people, returnees with protection needs, and people at risk of displacement. Through the Labour Relations Internships project, the State seeks to facilitate the socio-economic integration of these groups, providing them with training and employment opportunities that allow them to improve their quality of life and help develop the country. By collaborating with the business sector and providing training for in-demand job profiles, the State also seeks to foster long-term employment stability, increase the employability of participants and reduce social exclusion, while also strengthening social cohesion in the affected communities.





I have shared my entire story because I don't want anyone to go through the same as me. My dream is for my story to be the last, to never be afraid again."

Inclusion is key to enabling internally displaced people to rekindle hope

BY DANIELLE ÁLVAREZ

The room begins to fill with people united by the same story: having to leave everything behind to protect their lives. Some have travelled for hours to get here, driven by a sprinkle of hope. Here, their voices will be heard, helping them address and overcome their problems.

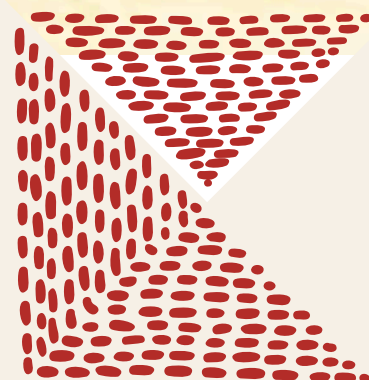
Jimena* notices a sign on the wall: "Your voice is important." She repeats it in a whisper, surprised. "I've never heard that before, [I've] never thought that what I had to say would matter to anyone." She takes a seat and starts to gradually recognise her own story in the testimonies of others. As others speak, she feels as though she is starting to heal. It seems that the fear that still keeps her up at night is becoming less lonely.

During 2023 and 2024, the Ministry of Human Rights, in coordination with the 18 institutions and

organisations of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced People, began the consultation process with women, men, LGBTIQ+ people and children in the cities most affected by forced displacement.

In these participatory sessions, attendees shared their experiences before and after their displacement in order to adapt the regulation and implementation of the Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced People to their actual needs.

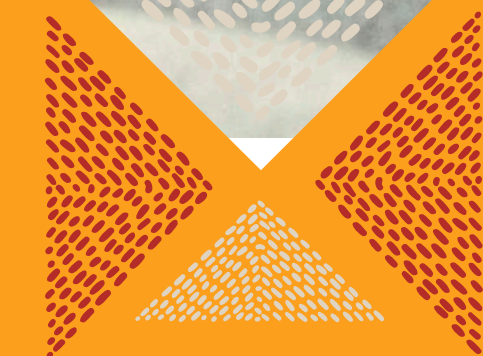
"I have shared my entire story because I don't want anyone to go through the same as me. My dream is for my story to be the last, to never be afraid again," says Jimena, who had to flee her home after being threatened.



Although the Honduran Government was already responding to these needs through different assistance and protection programmes, the new legal framework establishes key measures, such as the National System of Response to Forced Displacement, the development of a national policy to prevent it, and the allocation of a budget to provide humanitarian assistance.

As the day comes to an end, Jimena leaves full of hope. “This process makes me think that the State can really be that entity that protects us, that allows us to feel safe in our country. And, most importantly, we can trust them again,” she concludes.



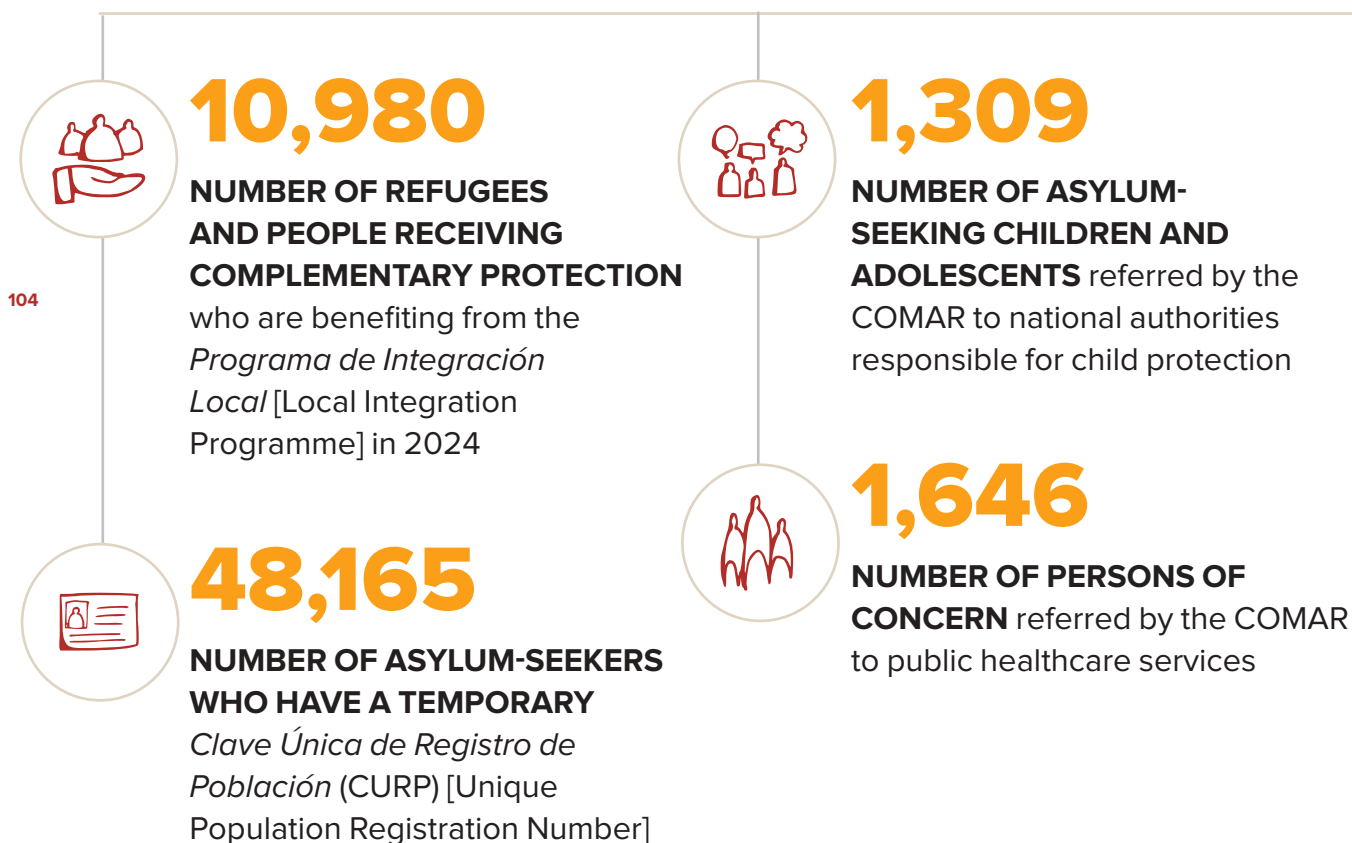




Mexico

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Indicators



Mexico sought to implement a series of pledges not only for the design of protection models and solutions for persons in need of international protection, but also for strategies to support host communities.

In recent years, the number of people in need of international protection who have arrived in Mexico has increased significantly. In 2023, 140,777 claims were received —the highest number on record. Meanwhile, by the end of September 2024, 58,806 claims had been made. Since 2017, Mexico (through the Ministry of the Interior [SEGOB, in Spanish] and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [SRE, in Spanish]) has participated in the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS, in Spanish) and has sought to implement a series of pledges not only for the design of protection models and solutions for persons in need of international protection, but also for strategies to support host communities. The pledges made as part of the MIRPS process are complemented by a series of pledges made during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, which were ratified in 2023, in Geneva.

At the regional level, Mexico assumed leadership of the MIRPS process by becoming the first Pro-Tempore Presidency in 2019. In 2021, Mexico led the Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement and, from 2022 it led the Regional

Technical Team on Case Reception, Admission and Processing. At the national level, Mexico set up the Inter-Institutional Roundtable on Asylum and Complementary Protection, chaired by the Undersecretariat of Human Rights, Population and Migration of the SEGOB, which provides a political forum for approving the proposals made by four MIRPS technical working groups focused on access to services: i. education (chaired by the Ministry of Education); ii. healthcare (Ministry of Health); iii. employment (Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare); and iv. documentation and identity (National Population Registry, RENAPO). At the federal level, supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Mexican Refugee Commission (COMAR, in Spanish) plays an important supporting role as Technical Secretariat. Since 2020, the COMAR has set up 10 state and 2 municipal MIRPS roundtables at the local level, with the aim of creating an environment conducive to inclusion and integration in the main urban settings receiving refugee populations.

PROGRESS

Coordination



Throughout 2024, as leading country of the Regional Technical Team on case reception, admission and processing, Mexico directed efforts aimed at identifying good practices, gaps and opportunity areas for the strengthening of procedures for children and adolescents. Thanks to this work, a final document on refugee status determination, which is adapted to this population, is currently being drafted.

At the national level, the Inter-institutional Roundtable on Asylum and Complementary Protection has held specialised sessions through thematic roundtables on education, documentation and identity, as well as healthcare and integration in the job market. Since its implementation in 2019, these endeavours have proven to be an efficient

and effective coordination mechanism among government offices, United Nations (UN) agencies and civil society organisations.

Following up on the pledges of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, together with agencies from the three levels of government, Mexico is working on the development and implementation of a public policy aimed at the local integration of the population in need of international protection. In collaboration with the Ministry of Welfare and the National Employment Service, COMAR has devised a route for the relocation of people legally recognised as refugees or pre-screened with a positive outcome, from the city of Tapachula, Chiapas, to Guadalajara, Jalisco.

Social Protection



As a follow-up to the pledges adopted by the Mexican Government at the second Global Refugee Forum, a four-party arrangement was set up, with the participation of representatives of organisations led by refugees in Mexico, civil

society, COMAR and UNHCR. This is a space where the refugee population participates in the decision-making processes related to their protection and integration in Mexico. A national

(federal) arrangement was established together with its counterparts in 10 cities in the country.

Since 2022, the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED, in Spanish), COMAR and UNHCR have been jointly implementing the “*Jornadas por la inclusión y la no discriminación*” (Days for inclusion and non-discrimination), with

the aim of developing a programme of institutional interventions and community activations against discrimination, racism and xenophobia in cities where there are people on the move, refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people. As of September 2024, workshops have been run in 14 cities in the country.

Protection



Throughout 2024, COMAR has been working on a project to adapt the verbal and written language used at each stage of the asylum procedure for children and adolescents, culminating in the production of an instruction manual for all COMAR

staff working with children and adolescents. This manual is currently being revised, and will be implemented soon.

In order to streamline the signing procedure at the COMAR or the National Migration Institute (INM,



in Spanish) offices, based on the obligations of asylum-seekers, a module was developed in the Refugee Information System (SIRE, in Spanish) to automate the registration of signatures, as well as to automatically close the cases for those who do not attend within the deadline established by law.

As part of the strengthening of inter-institutional coordination with a view to guaranteeing the right to an identity of asylum-seekers and refugees, a project aimed at implementing identity verification mechanisms through biometric engines was continued with the support of UNHCR, reducing

the backlog in the delivery of documents and ensuring the interoperability of systems and statistical information among participating government institutions.

In 2024, COMAR has received 210 family reunification claims – as of September 2024, 57 people have been authorised. An information module was implemented in Mexico City in 2024, which supports asylum-seekers with a thorough prior review of documentation and personalised guidance, reducing procedural preventions by 80%.



Healthcare



In line with the universality principle of the right to healthcare, the *Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social para el Bienestar* [Mexican Social Security Institute for Welfare] (IMSS-BIENESTAR, in Spanish) established an **ID-generation system** to facilitate registration and identification across the national healthcare network for people who are not enrolled in social security schemes in 23 states.

In March 2024, in conjunction with the US Embassy in Mexico, the Ministry of Health held a technical working meeting with participants from Mexican government agencies (Ministry of Health, *Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública* [National Institute of Public Healthcare], SRE, COMAR, INM, *Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia* [National System for the Integral Development

of the Family, SNDIF, by its Spanish acronym], *Centro Nacional de Programas Preventivos y Control de Enfermedades* [National Centre for Disease Control and Preventive Programmes]) and US government agencies (the offices of the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS], and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]), United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organisations. During this meeting, areas of collaboration to promote greater integration with the public healthcare system were identified. The creation of a Technical Working Group on Healthcare was also proposed to coordinate the provision of services and the exchange of information with the aim of supporting the integration of people on the move into the healthcare system in Mexico.

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Education



The Directorate of School Control of the Ministry of Public Education continues to support the dissemination of information for directors, teachers and academic staff on how to facilitate the integration and permanence of children and adolescents in the national education system, regardless of their national origin or migration status.

Through the information materials available on its website, guidance is provided to schools on how to enrol children on the move in school and how to place them in the correct educational level if they do not have any academic background.

From 1 January to 30 September 2024, through the *Estrategia Educación Sin Fronteras* [Education without Borders Strategy] of the *Instituto Nacional de Educación para Adultos* [National Institute for Adult Education] (INEA, in Spanish), a total of 97 active refugee learners registered in the school control system were reached, with 50 people in primary school and 47 in secondary having completed a certain level or certification. In addition, 243 foreigners are registered as studying in Mexico through the APRENDEINEA online platform.



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Jobs and Livelihoods



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The National Employment Service (SNE, in Spanish) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has launched the microsite “*México te emplea*” [Mexico employs you], aimed at people on the move who are in Mexico and are seeking employment. The microsite gathers job offers from employers who have previously been made aware of recruitment processes for foreigners in Mexico. At the same time, it also offers relevant information such as calls for job fairs and workshops on labour rights and fraud prevention. Since the start of platform operations in March 2024, 4,270 people have registered and 645 have been placed in employment. 94% of the people registered with the SNE are either Honduran, Cuban, Haitian, Salvadoran, Venezuelan, Guatemalan or Colombian.

Three hundred eighty-one companies with a *Constancia de Inscripción del Empleador* [Employer Registration Certificate] (CIE, in Spanish) from the National Migration Institute (INM, in Spanish) are registered with the SNE,

allowing them to hire foreign workers. In addition, these companies have already registered over 6,600 vacancies and more than 31,700 job seekers, in the context of mobility, have registered with the SNE (3,544 of them have found formal employment).

The SNE has also held job fairs in which job seekers receive personalised attention from company representatives, who present their job offers in sectors such as industry, commerce and services, with the aim of setting up a job interview. In coordination with COMAR and UNHCR, the SNE has held four fairs in Guadalajara, Aguascalientes and San Luis Potosí, in which 44 companies have participated and 1,316 job offers have been made.

In August 2024, a job fair was held in Mexico City, with the participation of over 35 companies and more than 400 people with international protection seeking employment. Thanks to this event, more than 200 people were directed to a vacancy.

Local Integration Programme



From January to September 2024, some 10,980 refugees were relocated from the southern states of the country to locations in central and northern Mexico so that they could participate in the Local Integration Programme (PIL, in Spanish), in order to receive support in their efforts to find employment in the formal labour market and integrate their families into the host communities. With these participants, the programme has reached a total of 47,421 beneficiaries since its inception in 2016.

Participants include single adults (51%); families (41%), of which 20% are single-parent families; and couples without children/adolescents or with other family compositions (8%). Hondurans composed 69.1% of participants, followed by Haitians (8.7%), Cubans (8.5%), Salvadorans (7.1%) and Guatemalans (3.5%). Other nationalities accounted for 3.1%.

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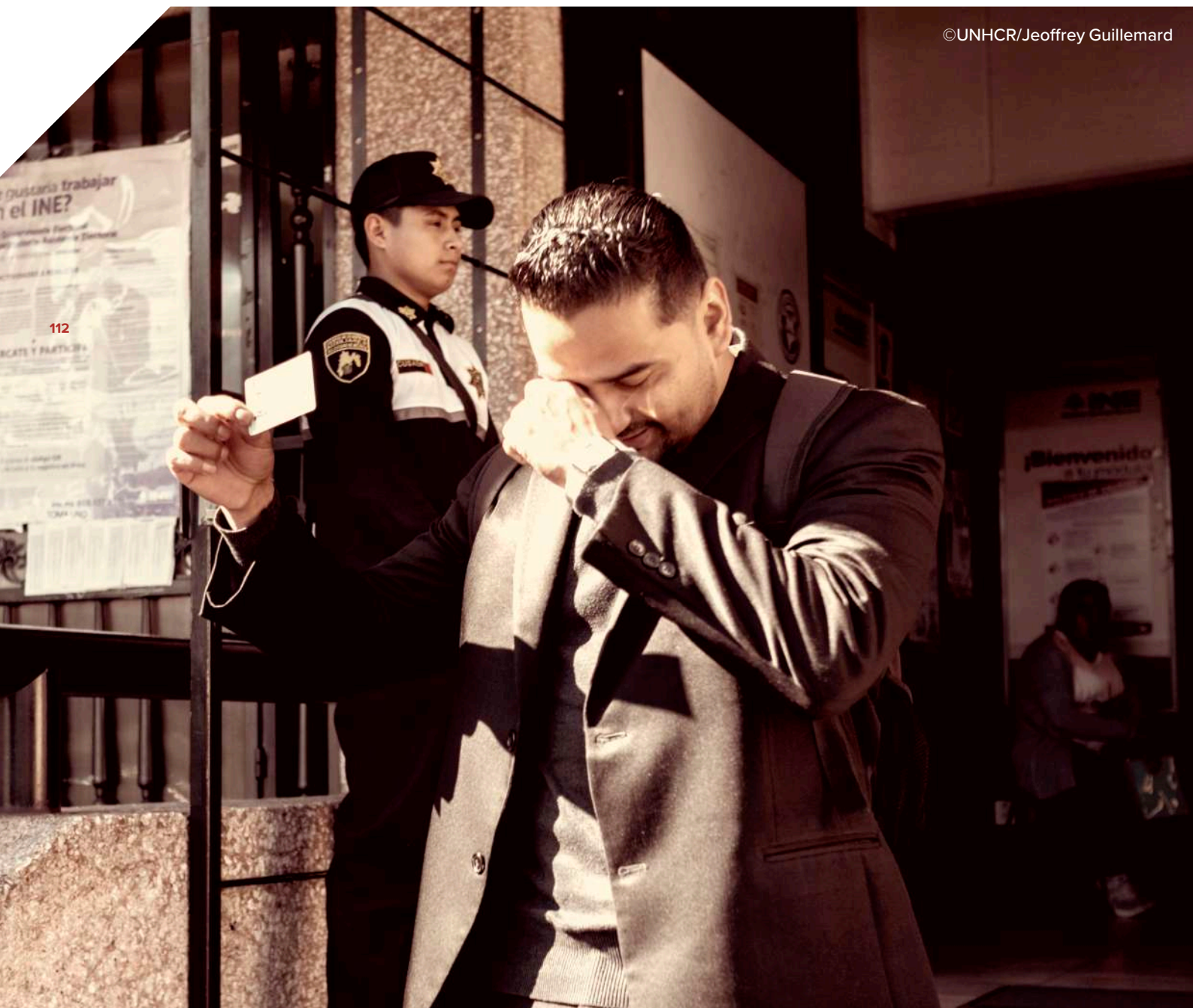
Naturalization



During 2024, the refugee population and those with complementary protection continued to submit naturalization applications to the SRE. As of 30 September, 1,303 refugees made a claim to the

COMAR for a recommendation to apply to the SRE for naturalization. In the same period, 131 received their naturalization certificates.

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Internal Displacement



The technical team from Mexico presented to the MIRPS Support Platform a project to provide direct support to the internally displaced population in the municipality of Choix, Sinaloa, through community strengthening and protection strategies aimed at raising people's awareness of the mechanisms for accessing their rights, thereby supporting actions and activities with a view to strengthening community coordination efforts to find collective solutions. The project was approved on 8 July 2024, as a good-practice implementation project.

The SEGOB and UNHCR jointly developed the “*Guía para el registro de personas en situación de desplazamiento forzado interno en México*” [Guide for the registration of forcibly internally displaced persons in Mexico], in order to guide state and federal governments in its design and implementation and to centre standards, principles and considerations around the registration of internally displaced people (PDFI, in Spanish). In addition, the *Formato Único de Registro de Personas Desplazadas* [Single Registration Form for Displaced People] was developed – it is a tool identifying the minimum elements required for screening attention needs and the possible creation of durable solutions. Additionally, it is a living instrument that can be adapted and adjusted according to the specificities of each legislation and institutional approach.

In August, the National Meeting on Good Practices and Opportunities in Inter-institutional Coordination for the Attention of Forced Internal Displacement in Mexico was organised by the *Unidad de Política Migratoria, Registro e Identidad de Personas* [Unit for Migration Policy, Registration and Identity of People] (UPMRIP, in Spanish), UNHCR and the

Michoacán Secretariat for Migrants. The event was attended by various states and federal agencies in the city of Morelia, Michoacán. The aim of the meeting was to create a space for dialogue among authorities from the three levels of government to reflect on experiences, good practices and common challenges regarding the comprehensive care of internally displaced people, as well as to foster partnerships with a view to furthering coordination and collaboration among states.

In September, COMAR launched an online course entitled “*Movilidad Humana, Refugio y Desplazamiento Forzado Interno en México*” [Human Mobility, Asylum and Forced Internal Displacement in Mexico], available on the Aprende.mx platform. This course aims to provide training on human mobility, specifying the general characteristics of the phenomenon, as well as the categories that have been identified, with particular emphasis on asylum and forced internal displacement. So far, more than 1,200 people have enrolled on the course.

Furthermore, in September, a report was produced on the activities carried out in the area of internal forced displacement at SEGOB's Under-Secretariat for Human Rights, Population and Migration during the 2018-2024 administration. This document reflects the work done in this area during that period, and its goal is to hand down to the following administrations the tools, instruments and experience required to implement a public policy aimed at addressing this situation in due course.



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Naturalization helps refugees feel at home in Mexico

BY MATEO PRIVITERA TORRES

Johan experienced a sense of belonging to the country that gave him protection and stability when he heard the words: “As of today, you are officially a Mexican citizen.”

Johan, 35, experienced years of harassment and threats from criminal groups in his hometown in Honduras, facing forced recruitment attempts since childhood. As an adult, the intimidation never stopped: “You have to pay the gangs, supposedly to protect you,” he explained. At one point, Johan ran out of money to pay them, so he was attacked and shot. Despite his wound, he realized he had no choice but to flee that same night.

Upon arriving in Mexico City, Johan lived in a shelter for three months and found a job in a department store. Despite his initial intention to reach the United States, he decided to stay in Mexico and seek asylum there.

In recent years, Mexico has become a destination country for people in need of international protection, with more than 140,000 asylum claims made in 2023 alone, placing it among the top five countries receiving the most claims worldwide.

Thanks to the efforts of the Mexican Government, refugees from Latin American countries can apply for Mexican nationality status after two years of residence. This legislation reflects the long-term protection spirit of the Cartagena Declaration,

“

I am very proud to be Mexican, but of course, no one can take away my roots.”

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which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2024. Citizenship confers important rights such as access to identity documents, the right to vote and a sense of settlement and belonging.

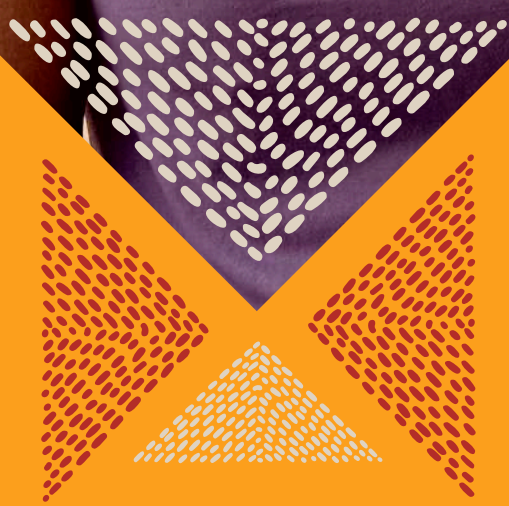
Johan met the requirements and felt deeply touched when he received his Mexican nationality. “I cried out of pure happiness,” he said, while reminiscing about the day that he received his naturalization certificate. “I am very proud to be Mexican, but of course, no one can take away my roots.” In addition to naturalization, Johan has managed to complete high school, paving the way for him to achieve his dream of studying civil engineering and improving his job prospects.

He has now made friends and shares his passion for football with his co-workers, who have turned him into a Club América fan. Johan looks to the future with a clear dream: to buy a house of his own in the country that he now calls home.



LINK TO FULL STORY:

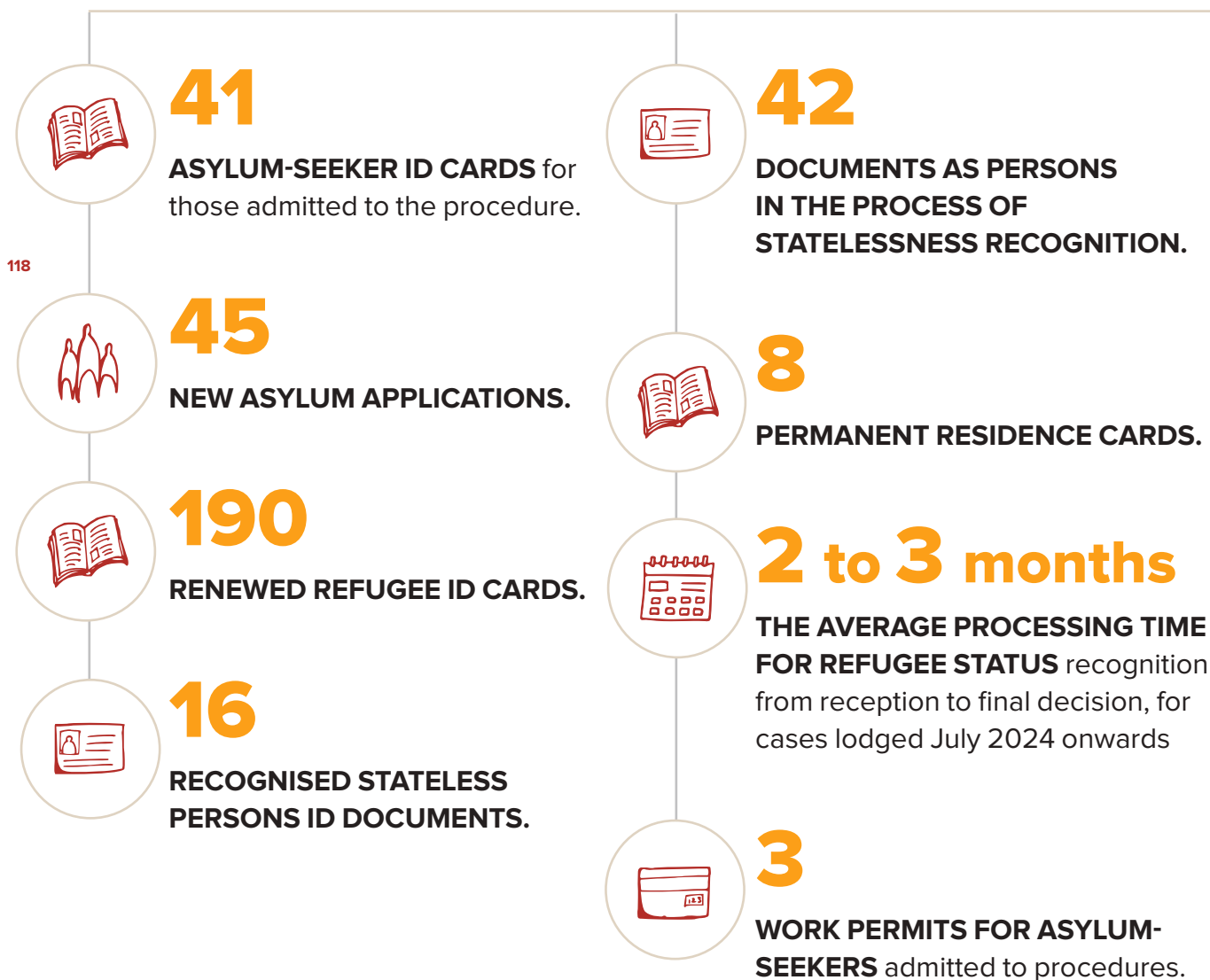




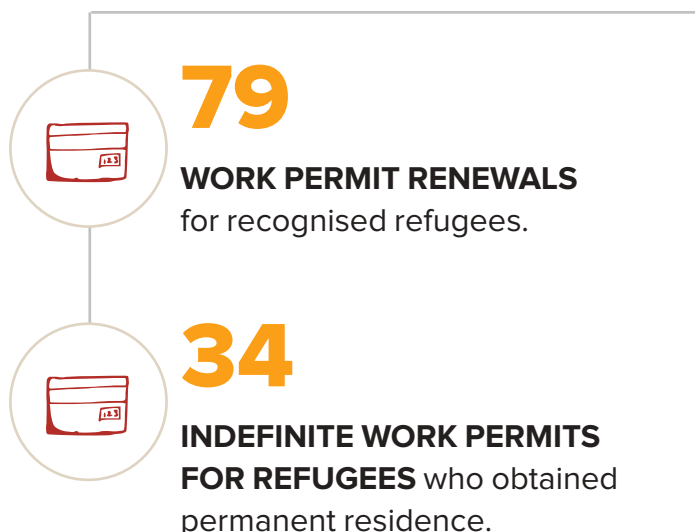
Panama

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Indicators



Panama's new government has begun to take measures to support people in transit through the country, seeking to guarantee their safety and protect their human rights.



Source: National Office for the Attention of Refugees (ONPAR, by its Spanish acronym) of Panama, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIRE, by its Spanish acronym) of Panama, National Migration Service (SNM, by its Spanish acronym) of Panama.

Panama is a country of transit and asylum in Central America, and has become a receiving country for asylum-seekers due to various favourable conditions, thus increasing the flow of people seeking international protection. According to data provided by the Panamanian migration authority, more than 266,000 people have crossed the Darién jungle from January to September 2024, mostly from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Haiti.

Panama's new government has begun to take measures to support people in transit through the country, seeking to guarantee their safety and protect their human rights. This work includes the implementation of humanitarian assistance policies, the improvement of conditions in reception centres and the strengthening of resources dedicated to assist this population, many of whom come from vulnerable situations in their countries of origin. In addition, the government is working with international agencies to address the challenges posed by the increase in mixed movements, especially through the dangerous Darién region.

At the third trilateral meeting between Panama, Colombia, and the United States, authorities addressed the displacement crisis in the region, focusing on finding solutions to reduce irregular crossings and improving the protection of people on the move.

The Ministry of Government, through its National Office of Attention to Refugees (ONPAR, by its Spanish acronym) has made significant strides in strengthening Panama's asylum and refugee protection system. Key initiatives include ongoing training for public officials to improve

the identification and referral of persons with protection needs, as well as the implementation of improved procedures for the reception and registration of asylum applications, among other relevant interventions.

These efforts reflect Panama's commitment to the protection of human rights and the improvement of the living conditions of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country.

Panama has granted refugee status to 2,646 people. The refugee population is mainly composed of Colombian, Salvadoran, Venezuelan, Nicaraguan and Cuban nationals, among other nationalities. So far in 2024, the *Comisión Nacional para los Refugiados* (National Commission for Refugees, CONARE, by its Spanish acronym) has held three meetings in which more than 20 people have been recognised, including their families.



PROGRESS

Protection



The border office located in Meteti, Darién, has been strengthened to provide timely attention and facilitate access to refugee status determination procedures for those who enter Panama as part of mixed movements and who wish to claim asylum.

Likewise, the registration system has been updated and a back-up copy of asylum-seekers and refugees' files is maintained. A total of 860 cases have been digitized and 300 of them have been closed. In addition, coordination with safety agencies has taken place to prevent misuse of shelter services by individuals with criminal record.

During this reporting period, a total of 16 passport applications have been processed for persons who have been officially recognised as refugees. In addition, 44 exit permits and 4 driver's licence certifications have been issued.

From January to date, ONPAR has received more than 300 asylum claims, which are currently being fully processed in approximately two months. The backlog of appointments for new asylum claims has been cleared, reducing the waiting time for an appointment from three months to only one week.

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Education



Panama has implemented a series of measures to improve access to education for refugees and asylum-seekers. Among the main measures is the integration of inclusive educational programmes that allow access to elementary and secondary education without discrimination.

Likewise, the Executive Decree No. 1225 of 2015, which facilitates access to the school system for

refugees and asylum-seekers, is being reviewed and updated.

Children in remote areas of Darién have benefited from the delivery of 230 school kits in the communities of Alto Playona and Boca de Cupe, facilitating their access to education.

Healthcare



During this period, a project related to best practices in mental health services and psychosocial support to facilitate the integration of people seeking asylum was submitted under the MIRPS Good Practice Implementation Projects initiative. This project focuses on enhancing support services by establishing a unit where specialized staff will deliver psychosocial assistance to vulnerable populations, including displaced persons, refugees, and residents of rural areas with limited support services. In addition

to offering a safe and supportive environment, the unit will serve as a bridge to connect people to service providers, including legal assistance, healthcare, educational support, or job placement.

Thanks to the MIRPS Fund, 500 basic humanitarian assistance healthcare kits have been distributed in the village of Metetí, benefiting the refugee population in the province of Darién in areas that are difficult to access and have limited resources, which limits their access to the healthcare system.

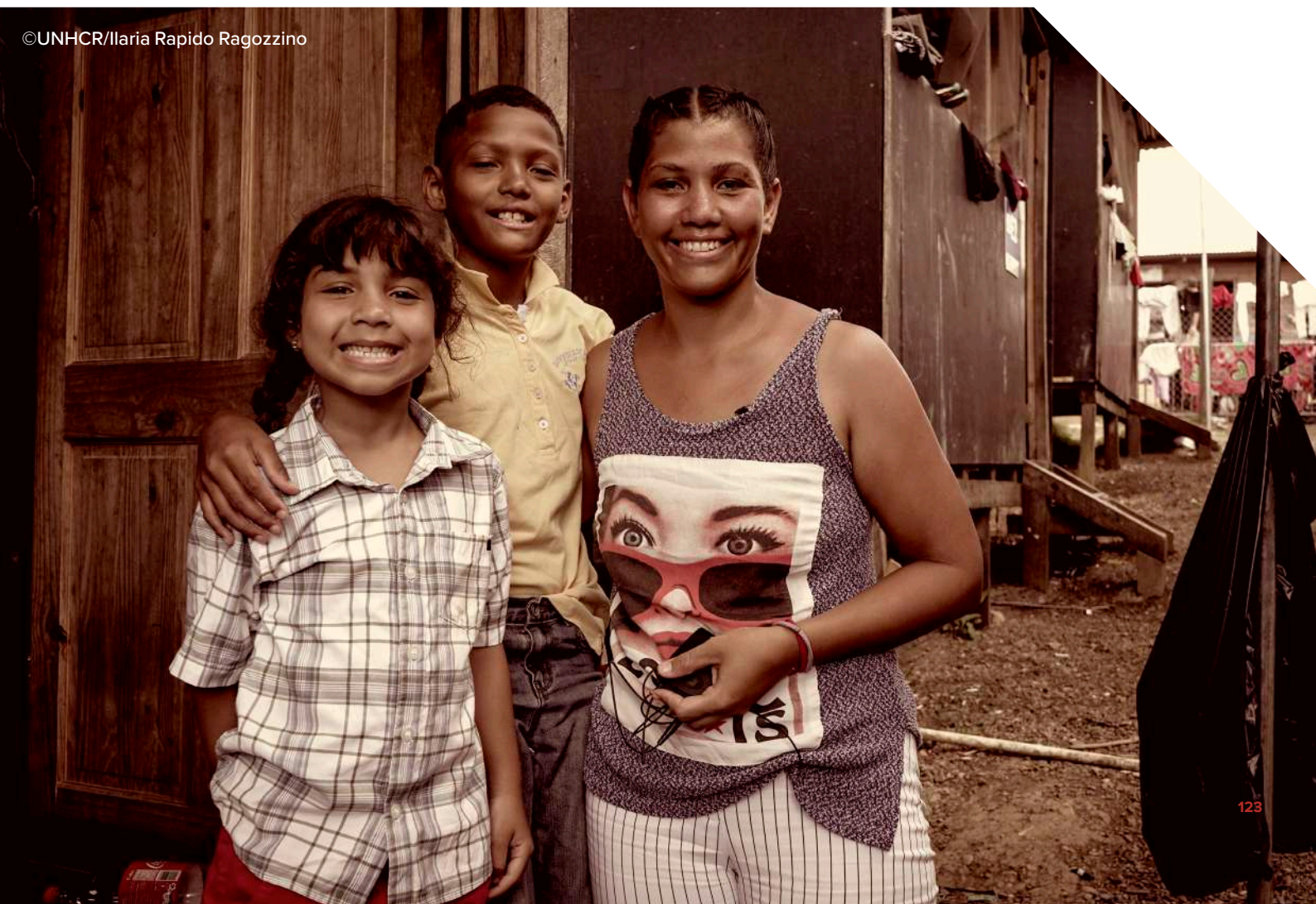
Social protection



Through Executive Decree No. 2 of 5 June 2024, the Public Policy on Equal Opportunities for Women 2024-2034 was approved, establishing a comprehensive framework aimed at advancing gender equality over the next decade. This policy seeks not only to guarantee equal opportunities, but also to foster an environment where women can fully exercise their rights across all areas of life. A key component of the policy is its focus on migration and human mobility, with specific measures designed to guarantee the rights and protection of refugee women.

In line with the MIRPS National Action Plan, significant efforts have been made to strengthen the attention, integration, and protection of refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities in the Darién Province and the Embera Wonaan region. Special emphasis has been placed on supporting women, children, and adolescents. Among the initiatives implemented, 75 women from host communities have received seed funding as part of economic self-reliance programs, providing them with alternatives for sustainable livelihoods and empowering their role in community development.

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Jobs and livelihoods



Under the pledges made in relation to providing international protection to stateless persons, following their status determination by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the first work permit for a stateless person was issued by the Ministry of Labour and Labour Development, also representing the obtaining of a humanitarian work permit.

Over this period, 113 work permits were processed for persons who have been granted refugee status. These permits are essential for enabling

the economic integration of refugees into the community, giving them the opportunity to work legally and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country. This initiative is part of our efforts to promote the self-reliance and dignity of refugees by ensuring their access to basic labour rights and social protection programs.

In addition, three work permits have been processed for asylum-seekers who are admitted for processing while the CONARE's decision is pending.

From the limbo of statelessness to belonging in Panama

BY MELISSA PINEL

For 71 of her 72 years, Hermelinda lived in the shadow of invisibility. Born in a small rural town in Colombia, her life took a turn when, at the age of 20, she moved with her husband and daughter to Darién, Panama, seeking a better future. However, upon arrival, she discovered that she lacked the necessary documentation to establish herself regularly in her new home. She returned to Colombia in search of proof of her identity, but was faced with a painful reality: there was no official record of her birth. Undeterred, Hermelinda returned and settled in Darién, where she spent decades growing corn, rice, and

bananas. But without an identity document, she was constantly denied access to basic rights. She had no access to healthcare services, education, or formal job opportunities. She lived in constant fear of being detained by the authorities.

In 2019, Panama implemented a new legal procedure for statelessness determination, after adhering to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. This step forward made it possible to identify and protect people like Hermelinda, facilitating their access to fundamental rights.



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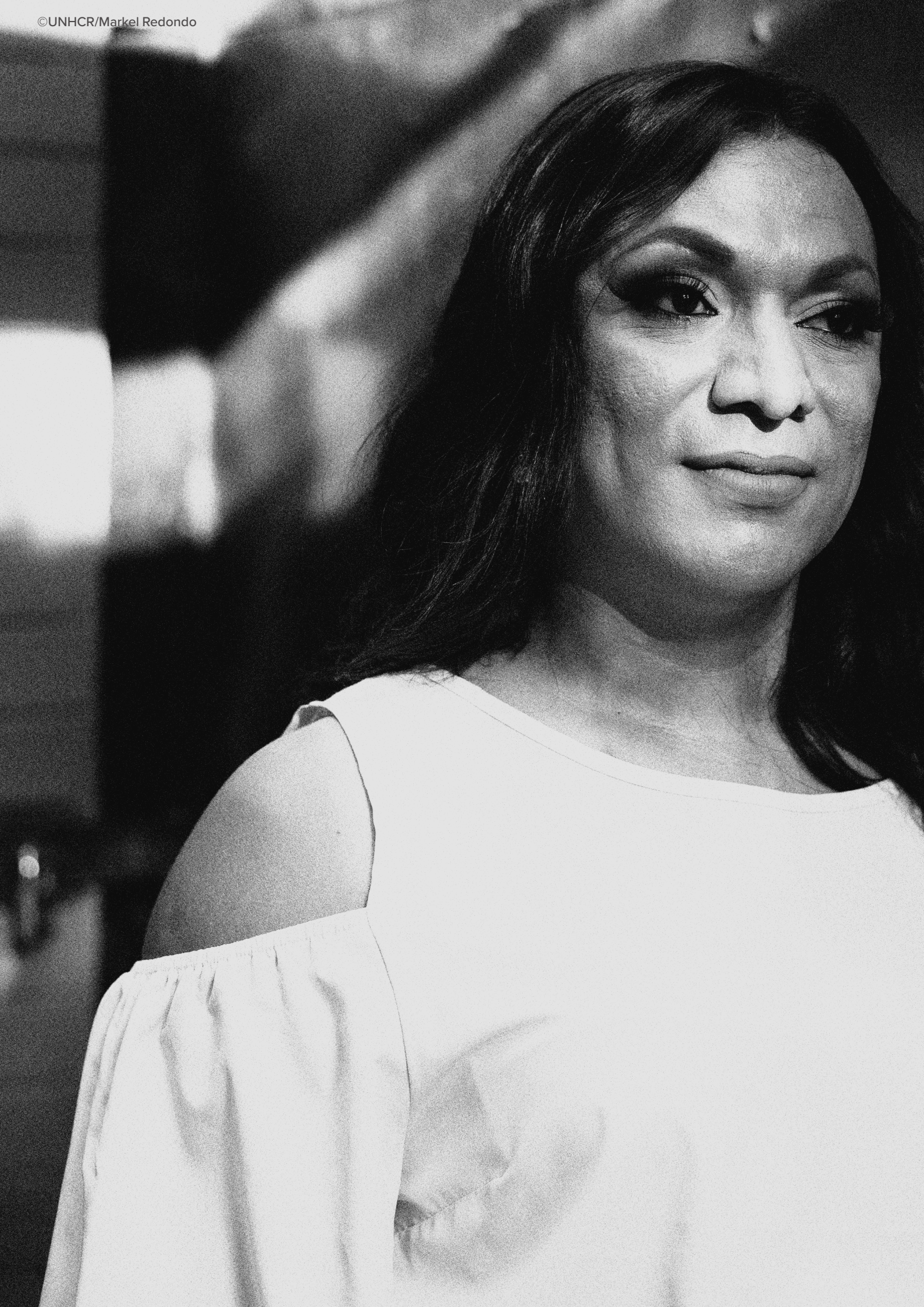
When I held that identity card in my hands, I felt great joy in my heart. I feel like I have come back to life.”

Her life changed in 2021, when a joint mission by UNHCR, the United Nations (UN) Refugee Agency, and the Government of Panama visited her community. Upon hearing her story, UNHCR assessed her situation and protection risks and referred her case to the Panamanian authorities.

Finally, in 2024, at the age of 72, Hermelinda was recognised as a stateless person and received an identity document for the first time in her entire life. With tears of happiness, she recounts: “When I held that identity card in my hands, I felt great joy in my heart. I feel like I have come back to life.”

LINK TO
FULL STORY:







MIRPS

Support

Platform

Since its launch in 2019, the MIRPS Support Platform has played a critical role in providing funding and technical assistance to advance MIRPS National and Regional Action Plans and maintaining international attention and support to the needs in Central America and Mexico.

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Since its launch in 2019, the MIRPS Support Platform has played a critical role in providing funding and technical assistance to advance MIRPS National and Regional Action Plans and maintaining international attention and support to the needs in Central America and Mexico. Support Platform members include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the European Union, France, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay, the United States, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI). To date, Spain, Canada, and the United States of America have served as Chairs of the MIRPS Support Platform.

In 2024, the United States continued to support activities aligned with its Support Platform Chair Strategy,¹ and the Government of Colombia confirmed its commitment to serve as the next

Chair, with the handover to be celebrated at the VII MIRPS Annual Meeting.

The United States Chair Strategy, “The Benefits of Successful Integration - Valuing the Contributions Forcibly Displaced People Bring to Host Communities,” seeks to draw attention to the needs of displaced people and their host communities, promote social cohesion, and exchange good practices for successful integration and other local solutions, with a particular emphasis on protection for the most vulnerable, including women and children.

The generous financial contributions from MIRPS Support Platform members, through UNHCR, enabled the successful implementation of numerous regional and national MIRPS activities throughout 2024. Contributions from members such as Canada, the European Union, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States provided vital resources for sub-regional efforts, advancing

1 United States Chair Strategy for the MIRPS Support Platform, 2022-2023. <https://mirps-platform.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2022-2023-MIRPS-SP-Strategy-USG-Chair-Final.pdf>



protection and solutions initiatives across the sub-region. The international financial institutions that form part of the MIRPS Support Platform continued enhancing partnerships with MIRPS States, leveraging their financial and technical support in benefit of displaced populations and host communities. Of note, the World Bank and IADB shared their expertise in the fifth edition of the Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection in Washington, with in-person and virtual participation of MIRPS States.²

For the first time, MIRPS States are implementing two sets of projects with the financial support of MIRPS Support Platform Members, Spain and the United States. Through these funding mechanisms, MIRPS States have developed and implemented specific projects aligned with their National Action Plans.

The first set of projects, supported by the Government of Spain, is implemented through the MIRPS Fund, administered by the OAS Department of Social Inclusion.³

The second set of projects, “MIRPS Good Practice Implementation Projects,” is supported by the United States, in fulfillment of its pledge made at the Second Global Refugee Forum to continue supporting, in alignment with efforts by MIRPS States, to advance the self-reliance of refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and host communities in Central America and Mexico. These projects are designed to enhance good practices to foster local integration as a durable solution for refugees and other displaced persons in the region, aligned with the MIRPS Support Platform regional activities developed in 2023. As such, MIRPS National Technical Teams designed projects to establish new programming

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2 For further information on the Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection, refer to the section, “Strategic Positioning of MIRPS in the OAS.”

3 For further information on the MIRPS Fund and the projects supported by Spain, refer to the section, “Strategic Positioning of MIRPS in the OAS.”

or expand existing initiatives, linked to the practices exchanged in the “MIRPS Inventory of Good Practices on Integration”⁴ and the three 2023 MIRPS Learning Events on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), economic integration, and solutions to internal displacement.

With the technical support of the Committee formed by the United States, Canada, UNHCR, and the OAS, six project proposals were strengthened and selected. The projects are currently in the implementation phase, to be completed by March 2025:

BELIZE: The Refugees Department is leading a project focused on facilitating the labor integration of displaced persons through a survey to collect relevant data, provision of technical training, tools to support entrepreneurial initiatives, services through employment agents, and outreach to employers.

COSTA RICA: The project led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security focuses on the provision of computer equipment and materials necessary for the operation of Employment Units, which provide labor intermediation services and training services to increase employability. Additionally, the project includes the design of outreach materials to inform displaced populations of available services.

EL SALVADOR: The project led by ISDEMU facilitates self-help groups for women in three municipalities, focusing on prevention and response to gender-based violence. The project also includes a component on economic empowerment and the provision of seed capital.

GUATEMALA: The Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of Guatemala is implementing a project in two Casas Jóvenes to strengthen their approach to promoting access to MHPSS and labor integration through consultancies, staff training, and renovation of dedicated MHPSS spaces. A bilateral visit to El Salvador was undertaken to learn from good practices in the Urban Centers for Wellbeing and Opportunities (CUBOS).

HONDURAS: The Ministry of Labor and Social Security is implementing an internship program to promote labor insertion, in which participants access technical and soft skills trainings and workshops on labor rights. The project also includes advocacy and awareness-raising with companies to strengthen collaboration with the private sector.

MEXICO: COMAR is leading the implementation of a project on strengthening community networks and responses to facilitate the integration of internally displaced populations in Sinaloa, including through community workshops, creation of a neighborhood committee, referrals for accessing services including MHPSS and technical trainings, and infrastructure improvements.

PANAMA: The Ministry of Health will implement a project to create and adapt spaces for the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services for displaced persons.⁵

Recognizing that the majority of MIRPS projects, both through the MIRPS Fund and Good Practice Implementation Projects, have a strong focus on activities related to employment and livelihoods,

4 Further information on MIRPS good practices can be found here: <https://mirps-platform.org/en/resources/good-practices>.

5 The project design is currently being finalized and implementation will begin shortly.

the MIRPS Support Platform is planning a MIRPS Learning Event on Labor Integration in early 2025. With the financial support of the United States, and with the participation of MIRPS States and Support Platform Members, the forthcoming event will build technical capacities in key areas that support the economic integration of displaced persons, with a view to enhancing ongoing project implementation and sustainability.

Additionally, with the support of the United States on behalf of the MIRPS Support Platform, the Government of Guatemala hosted the “Second Cities of Solidarity National Conference and the Regional Meeting of the MIRPS Regional Technical Team on Local Governance” in Guatemala City on 25-26 September. Uruguay, as a Member of the MIRPS Support Platform, shared good practices led by the Municipality of Montevideo’s Secretariat of Ethnic Racial Equity and Migrant Populations.⁶

In 2025, Colombia, as Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, will continue promoting the Support Platform’s objectives towards the fulfillment of the MIRPS National and Regional Action Plans. An emphasis will be placed on strengthening international protection efforts to address the situation of asylum-seekers and refugees to ensure that their rights, safety, and well-being are recognized and safeguarded in accordance with international standards. Colombia also aims to increase international visibility and support for the MIRPS from a wider range of actors to improve the response to international protection needs and to find durable solutions for people to live in dignified and peaceful conditions.



6 For further information on this event, refer to the section “Regional Technical Team on Local Governance.”

